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# ARAB TIMES

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## NEWSWATCH

### State of limbo

THE ever-increasing cases of workers' litigation due to breach of contracts, non-payment of wages, assault, and other allegations against employers has been brought to the attention of authorities at the highest level by a cross-section of workers, their embassies and some concerned citizens.

A literate Asian technician duped his recruitment agency in his country to tell the Arab Times that he is in a "state of limbo" with his sponsor and commented that "No one in the world should turn his employee into a slave and ruin his life to gain a little bit of money — specially sponsors in an affluent state like Kuwait."

Any civilised human being should send his employee back home if the latter's service did not come up to the sponsors' expectations, the expatriate added.

● (See story Page 9)

### Surprise visit

AMMAN, Jan 17, (Reuters): Iraqi President Saddam Hussein arrived in Amman on a previously unannounced visit today and went straight into talks with King Hussein.

An official said King Hussein welcomed the Iraqi leader at Amman's military airport and the two leaders drove to the Royal Court for a meeting.

### Petrified forest

RIYADH, Jan 17, (AP): A 270 million-year-old petrified forest was recently discovered in central Saudi Arabia, geologists announced yesterday.

The announcement from the faculty of geology at King Abdul-Aziz University in Riyadh said the petrified trees of the forest, covering an area of 100 square kilometres (38.6 square miles), are the oldest petrified ever appeared on the face of the earth.

### Thai confesses

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 17, (Kunming): A Thai who admitted stealing more than \$17 million jewellery from a Saudi Arabian royal family will be charged with theft in Bangkok, it was reported.

The report by the Bangkok Post reaching here this afternoon said the charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years jail under the Thai penal code.

Kriangkrai Techamom, 32, in confessing the crime to Thai police and the press over the weekend, said he air-freighted the loot to Bangkok and returned to pick it up.

### Embassy denies

BRAZZAVILLE, Jan 17, (Reuters): Iran's embassy in Congo today denied reports that Tehran financed the bombing of a French DC-10 airliner which blew up over the Sahara desert killing all 171 people aboard.

"These reports come from the world-wide opposition to the oppressed," the embassy said in a communiqué issued in Brazzaville, where the flight originated.

### Guards defy ban

BEIRUT, Jan 17, (Reuters): Iranian Revolutionary Guards have defied a ban by Syria on entering Lebanon through its border and sailed to the war-torn country from Cyprus, security sources said today.

### Peace move

BOGOTA, Jan 17, (Reuters): Colombia's major drug cartel, the Extraditables, said today they would end bombings and assassinations of public figures who seek journalists in a bid to prove they wanted peace with the government.

### Arms deal

DUBAI, Jan 17, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia's multi-billion pound arms deal with Britain will continue as planned and the kingdom is capable of paying its commitments, a British minister said today.

### Weather

TEMPERATURE will remain slightly below normal with light northerly wind.

State of sea: Slight

High water: 4.00am, 5.00pm

Low water: 10.00am, 11.00pm

Sunrise: 6.43am

Sunset: 5.14pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 14°C 57°F

Ahmad: 13°C 55°F

Falaka: 14°C 57°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 5°C 41°F

Ahmad: 7°C 45°F

Falaka: 8°C 46°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 15°C 59°F

Ahmad: 15°C 59°F

Falaka: 15°C 59°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 92 per cent

Ahmad: 84 per cent

Falaka: 75 per cent

# Soviets urged not to set up Israel ties

KUWAIT has urged the Soviet Union not to establish diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity until it recognises international resolutions particularly the holding of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed yesterday told a Soviet delegation, currently visiting the country, that he was hopeful

that the Soviet Union would maintain its well known attitude towards the Arab causes and its policy of not establishing diplomatic ties with Israel.

The Soviet delegation is led by parliament member and director of the Institute for Oriental Studies of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Mikhail Kapitsa.

Sheikh Sabah told reporters that

they discussed a host of regional and international issues as well as bilateral relations, indicating that Kapitsa officially reflects his government's opinions on these issues.

He said Kapitsa had voiced in the name of the Soviet leadership that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah would respond to the invitation for visiting the Soviet Union

as soon as possible.

Sheikh Sabah said he assured the Soviet delegation of the strong and positive relations between the two countries, existing before the perestroika.

Shifting to another issue, Sheikh Sabah said they discussed the situation in Afghanistan following the withdrawal of Soviet troops, stressing the need

for bringing an end to the fighting between the Afghan people themselves.

The Soviet Ambassador to Kuwait Ernest Zverv told Kuna that Kapitsa had explained Moscow's stand towards the Middle East question and its drive for finding a just settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and assured Sheikh Sabah of the Soviet Union's

unwavering support to the just cause of the Palestinian people.

Zverv said the two sides shared identical viewpoints regarding the situation in the Gulf region where they stressed the need to end the state of no peace and no war through a comprehensive and lasting settlement that will realize peace and stability for Iraq and Iran and for all the countries in the region.

## Violence spreads to Yerevan

# Troops fan out in Azerbaijan

MOSCOW, Jan 17, (Agencies): Soviet troops fanned out across Azerbaijan today to quell fighting between Armenians and Azeris marked by an orgy of stabbings, beatings and burnings.

Officials said troops sent in by Moscow under an emergency decree took up positions in the main trouble spots and had already curbed the tension, despite roadblocks set up by militant Azeris outside major Azerbaijani cities.



Soviet Muslims gather at the Soviet-Iran border along the northern bank of Aras River in Azerbaijan. (Reuters wirephoto)

Eyewitness accounts of a week of confrontation in the Soviet Union's deep south said Azeris had hurled Armenians out of windows, stabbed them, clubbed them and hurled them to death, mostly in the Azerbaijani capital, Baku.

Soviet army, Interior Ministry and KGB troops have been given clearance to fire on Armenian and Azerbaijani militants to defend themselves and to protect official arms caches, central television said today.

Officials said today more forces may be sent to Azerbaijan to stop the raging civil war, but the violence spread to the Armenian capital where desperate Armenians raided police stations in a wild hunt for weapons.

Inside Azerbaijan, the full-scale battles between Armenians and Azerbaijanis raged for a fifth day with no signs of abating in what army generals are calling a civil war in the Transcaucasus on the Soviet Union's southern rim.

In an ominous escalation of the two-year conflict, the two ethnic communities have formed self-defence brigades and are using sophisticated weaponry captured or stolen from the military.

The two sides have deployed with armoured personnel carriers, surface-to-air rockets, machine-guns and even unmarked helicopters.

"The situation is not worsening but it is bad enough already," said Yuri Grimsitikh, a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

He said 11,000 troops had been sent and were taking up positions "where they are needed — where battles are going on — to separate the warring sides."

"If the situation demands it, more troops will be sent," Grimsitikh said.

"We were expecting (the roadblocks) and knew it wouldn't be easy," an Interior Ministry spokesman said. "They have considerably reduced the level of confrontation between the two sides."

Interior Ministry spokesman Dmitri Tselisnov told United Press International that Armenian attacks 13 points in the Armenian capital of Yerevan and elsewhere in the republic in desperate searches for weapons to defend themselves against Azerbaijanis.

The raiders seized a total of 452 firearms, including Makarov revolvers and small-arms ammunition, over two days, Tselisnov said.

One of the raids was on the Dynamo sports club, where the attackers made off with bullets used by marksmen. In other raids described by Tselisnov, Armenians pillaged a hunting club, stole 31 Makarov revolvers from a post office, took 15 pistols from a police station and grabbed

weapons from railway guards.

Trouble was also brewing in the third Transcaucasian republic of Georgia, where thousands of people demanded independence at rallies in Tbilisi and workers at some plants were on strike, according to news reports and sources in the Georgian capital.

Vadim Birkin, a spokesman for the Moscow-appointed committee overseeing the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian enclave at the centre of the trouble, said troops were sent in by helicopter to circumvent roadblocks outside Baku and near the cities of Gyandza (formerly Kirovabad) and Yevlakh.

"Troops are being airlifted into the most troubled areas," he told Reuters by telephone from Stepanakert, the main centre of Nagorno-Karabakh, a 4,400-sq-km (1,700 sq-mile) upland farming area mid-way between Baku and the Armenian capital Yerevan.

Earlier, the Interior Ministry spokesman said four charred bodies had been found overnight

in Baku, bringing to 60 the toll in more than a week of clashes throughout the region.

At least 180 people have died in two years of disturbances over Nagorno-Karabakh over which Azerbaijan and Armenia have fought several times.

The conflict in the windswept hilly area, run by Azerbaijan for nearly 70 years, is the most intractable of the many ethnic problems viewed as the biggest threat to President Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reforms.

The government daily Izvestia published accounts of Armenians hunted down last weekend in Baku, saying thousands of people had been forced from their homes.

"Eyewitnesses recounted how people were thrown out of windows and from homes, killed with iron rods, stabbed with knives," the daily wrote.

"Grown men did not conceal their fear when they told of how several days ago four people were set on fire at the railway station."

It said the saddest sight in the city was that of people leaving their homes.

## Author defends Quran in comics

### Police halts news conference

TUNIS, Jan 17, (Reuters): Tunisian author and journalist Youssef Seddik defended his comic strip Quran today at a news conference which ended abruptly when plainclothes policemen whisked him up to his hotel room and held him incommunicado.

Seddik, whose work has been condemned by a Kuwaiti theologian and by Tunisia's Supreme Islamic Council, was able to make a statement in which he said the Kuwaiti was incompetent and the Tunisian body had judged the book without studying it.

But who he invited journalists to

ask questions over coffee in Tunis's Africa Hotel, six plainclothes policemen took him upstairs and prevented reporters from seeing him.

A representative of Tunisia's League for the Defence of Human Rights described the incident as a scandal.

But Seddik, a Tunisian usually resident in Paris, later told Reuters by telephone the authorities were worried there might be an incident and he considered the affair closed.

The author, whose book "If the Quran had been told to me" has just appeared on the French market, said Mohammed Fawzi Faiddallah, the

director of Islamic studies at Kuwait University was ignorant of the subject he teaches.

Faiddallah, in an interview with a Kuwait newspaper last week, said Seddik's work was heretical and the author had been recruited by the enemies of Islam.

He described Seddik as "a new Salman Rusdie", after the Indian-born British writer condemned to death by Iranian leaders last year for his work "The Satanic Verses."

Seddik challenged Faiddallah's legal terminology and asked other Muslims to speak out in his defence.

## Arafat to quit if peace bid fails

CAIRO, Jan 17, (Reuters): Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said in an interview published today he would resign if current moves to settle the conflict with Israel failed.

He told the Egyptian weekly political review Al-Mussawwar that unless progress was made he would convene a meeting of the PNC, to hand over his responsibilities.

"If current peace efforts reach a dead end, I will call for a meeting of the PNC ... and immediately announce my resignation," said Arafat, chairman of the PLO and president of the self-declared Palestinian state.

"It will not be a toy in the Americans' hands," he added.

# Indo-Pak war likely

## Kashmir situation worsening

### Arab Times report

ISLAMABAD, Jan 17: Highly informed sources have indicated the possibility of a fourth war breaking out "in the near future" between India and Pakistan over the sensitive issue of Kashmir.

Sources cited as indicators the on-going wave of violence and unrest in Jammu and Kashmir and the recently concluded Pakistani military manoeuvres, one of the biggest-ever, code-named Zarb-e-Momin (strike of the faithful). India also held similar military exercises near the Pakistani border last year.

The sources also told the Arab Times that both the countries last week reinforced their forces along the line of control of the border, and they are on alert.

Pakistan Army Chief of Staff General Aslam Beg recently paid a surprise visit to Pakistani troops facing their Indian counterparts at the highest battlefield of the world, Siachen glacier, in northern Kashmir. There have been intermittent battles over the disputed glacier during the last three years, causing heavy losses on both sides.

Sources pointed out that in the last 12 months, Pakistan has been boosting its armed forces with sophisticated weapons, ground-to-air missiles, surface-to-surface missiles and F-16 fighter jets. India has also test-fired its latest Agni missile, which could be aimed at any target inside Pakistan.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over the disputed Muslim-majority state of Kashmir. Two thirds of Kashmir is controlled by India and the rest by Pakistan.

Tension between the two countries heightened when India accused Pakistan of supplying moral and material support to separatist groups fighting against Indian control of Kashmir. The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front wants an independent Kashmir or accede to Pakistan. The JKLF is headquartered in Pakistan.

Diplomatic sources in Islamabad said Pakistan has taken "serious note" of the second Indian warning in a week over the situation in Kashmir, where at least 23 people have died in a wave of unrest and anti-government protests.

The latest Indian warning was prompted by a Pakistani statement expressing deep concern over violence in the strategic territory.

The diplomatic sources pointed out that since the stalemate at the Afghan front the top brass of Pakistan Army felt a bit demoralised and needs a moral booster, giving rise to apprehensions of another war.

Diplomatic sources also emphasised that the minority governments of India and Pakistan are facing acute internal insurgency problems which call for a situation where national unity becomes a necessity to save weak governing bodies.

Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has been facing a Beirut-like situation in the country's biggest city, Karachi, and a separatist nationalist movement in the southern province of Sind.

India's new Prime Minister V.P. Singh is yet to find a solution to the volatile situation in Punjab, where Sikh militants have been waging a guerrilla war for the formation of an independent Sikh state. Fresh trouble in Kashmir has further aggravated the situation.

Sources indicated that faced with the identical circumstances of internal insurgencies, New Delhi and Islamabad are likely to be compelled to start a fresh war, that seems inevitable, to forge unity.

# Another big Cory catch

## Top coup plotter held

MANILA, Jan 17, (Agencies): Philippine troops seized a top coup leader from his Manila hideout today, dealing what officials said was a major blow to army dissidents' plans to launch a new rebellion.

"We want reforms in government. In this bureaucracy, it is the small people who suffer ... I have no regrets," cashed navy Lieutenant-Commander Jaime Lucas told reporters after soldiers led by a woman officer arrested him before dawn.

The government listed Lucas as number four in the hierarchy of officers accused of organising a coup attempt against President Corason Aquino last month.



Discharged Philippine Navy Lieutenant Commander Jaime Lucas, in erichues, leaves a military detention centre in Manila with a guard to appear at a press conference. (Reuters wirephoto)

Lucas, who broke a leg trying to flee his captors, was the second coup leader to be detained in four days and the third since the military announced rewards totalling 11.5 million pesos (\$510,000) for the wanted plotters.

The military said Lucas, with a price of one million pesos (\$44,500) on his head, was the operations officer of the December 1-7 rebellion, the sixth and most serious coup attempt against Aquino in her four years in power.

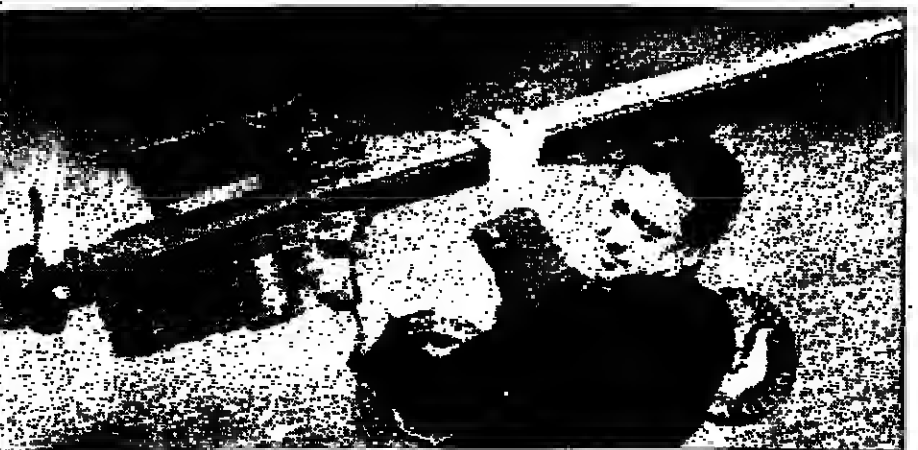
"We see this as a very big setback to their plans and programmes," Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos told a news conference.

Meanwhile, Aquino today ordered the suspension of a provincial governor for his alleged role in coup attempt.

Also today, opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile appeared before a government commission to dispute administration claims that rebel soldiers were at his home on the first day of the coup attempt, linking him with the rebellion.

In another sign of his penchant for secrecy and personal diplomacy, US President George Bush has sent an adviser to Manila in reaffirm support for President Aquino, the White House disclosed today.

## IRA suspect linked to Thatcher bombing



William Blossal of the US Customs Service shows off the Stinger missile launcher that members of IRA allegedly attempted to buy. (Reuters wirephoto)

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida, Jan 17, (AP): A suspected Irish Republican Army (IRA) member bragged that his group had connections to a 1984 bombing attempt against British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, according to documents released.

The statement was attributed to Kevin McKinley, 33, one of four suspected IRA members arrested after they allegedly bought an anti-aircraft missile and other weapons from federal undercover agents last week.

The men told undercover agents they planned to use the Stinger missile against British troops in Northern Ireland.

Yesterday, following requests by defence attorneys and prosecutors for more time to prepare the case, US magistrate Ann Vitunac postponed a bail hearing for the men until Friday.

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## INTERNATIONAL

# Eight more govs resign

NEW DELHI, Jan 17, (Kuna): Governors of eight more Indian states today tendered their resignations on the advice of President R. Venkataraman.

With this the governors of 13 states have resigned their posts following the presidential directive to the governors of all states to quit in the wake of the change of government at the centre.

The governors who resigned today were, P.C. Alexander (Tamil Nadu), Mrs Ram Dulai Sinha (Kerala), Khurshid Alam Khan (Goa), R.K.S. Gaudhi (Himachal Pradesh), Mohammed Usman Arif (Uttar Pradesh), Prof Nurul Hasan (Orissa), S. A. Waagma (Mizoram) and S.K. Bhatnagar (Sikkim).

The governors of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Haryana and Nagaland had resigned yesterday, the Jammu and Kashmir governor had sent in his resignation the day before.

The resignation of the governors evoked protests from the Congress (I) ruled state governments, Karnataka Chief Minister Veerendra Patil said in Gulbarga that as a matter of propriety the union government should have consulted the state governments before asking the governors to resign.

Poodicherry Chief Minister M.O. H. Farook described the move as "unfortunate" but said he had not received any communication from the centre regarding the shifting of Poodicherry Governor, Lt Gen (ret'd) R.S. Dayal.

India's new government yesterday ordered the mass resignation of governors, the Interior Ministry said.

It is the first major purge ordered by Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

"The prime minister feels that some changes have to be made where there were political appointments by the ruling party," a Home (Interior) Ministry spokesman said.

Such appointments, had broken the tradition that governors should be "non-political figures distinguished in public life."

The spokesman said the government would probably reappoint many of the governors but president asked all of them this week to resign.

As the resignations streamed into Rashtrapati Bhavan, the president's official New Delhi residence, Congress leaders were in conference debating how to react. Rajiv Gandhi had an emergency meeting with Venkataraman last night.

Congress general-secretary V.N. Gadgil told reporters: "Those who criticised us for making political appointments now have politicised the very institution of governors."

The resignation demand was far less drastic than the purge ordered in 1977, the only other time since Indian independence in 1947 that Congress has lost a general election.

Indian External Affairs Minister I. K. Gujral today said that India will not militarily intervene anywhere under any circumstances.

He said the National Front government do not believe in military interventions.

Gujral said that Pakistan Foreign Minister Yakub Khan would soon be visiting New Delhi and this opportunity would be used to have detailed talks in various aspects of Indo-Pak relations, including Kashmir and that no subject would be excluded.

On the phased pullout of the Indian peace keeping force from Sri Lanka, Gujral said it would be on schedule.

## Toll 23 in Dhaka ferry capsized

DHAKA, Jan 17, (AP): Divers employed by relatives found seven more bodies, bringing to 23 the number of people known to have died when a ferry capsized and sank, a newspaper reported.

Dhaka newspapers had said between 100 and 150 people were thought to have drowned when the ferry sank on Sunday night. The actual toll probably will never be known, since bodies are usually washed downstream.

About 80 passengers are listed as missing. Survivors of ferry accidents, which are common in Bangladesh, often swim ashore and walk away without informing the authorities.

The Bangladesh Times, a government-owned English-language daily newspaper, said divers found seven bodies yesterday after a daylong search.



## Delhi demonstration

Women supporters of India's opposition Congress Party try to break through police cordon during a protest outside Prime Minister V.P. Singh's residence in New Delhi. About

200 women demonstrated against government inaction against violence in the southern state of Punjab and Kashmir. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Indians acquitted

### Fiji arms case

SUVA, Fiji, Jan 17, (AP): The High Court today dismissed charges against 18 Indians accused of smuggling enough arms and ammunition to start "a small war" in Fiji.

The group was arrested after tons of armaments, including automatic weapons, grenades and rocket launchers, were intercepted in Australia en route to the South Pacific nation. There were two successful coups in Fiji in 1987.

Fiji has a population of about 715,000, of which native Fijians comprise 47 per cent. Indians, descendants of British imported sugar plantation labour in the 19th century, make up 49 per

cent of the population. Europeans, Chinese and others make up the rest.

The 18 Indian defendants had pleaded guilty to charges of smuggling arms following their arrest 18 months ago, but the judge said he was satisfied most of the men were farmers, not criminals.

They were each ordered to pay the equivalent of \$35 court costs and then ordered released from custody.

The 18 originally denied charges against them, but on Monday changed their pleas to guilty following private talks among defense and prosecution lawyers.

## New policy

### Lanka to boost ME missions

COLOMBO, Jan 17, (Kuna): Sri Lanka is to strengthen its diplomatic missions in the Middle East as part of the reorganization programme undertaken by the Foreign Ministry, a statement said.

The statement issued by the Foreign Ministry said, a new mission is to be established in Iran and the Lankan mission in Oman is to be upgraded.

Under the new programme initiated on the directive of President Ranasinghe Premadasa, a new setup, called umbrella organisation, are to be established in selected capitals, the statement said. Two such organisations will be set up in Kuwait and Cairo, it said.

## Key witness absent

# Enrile defends

MANILA, Jan 17, (UPI): Lawyers for opposition Senator Juao Pooce Enrile presented evidence today countering charges that ex-army Col. Gregorio Honasan and some 100 rebel soldiers were at Enrile's house during last month's bloody coup attempt.

At a pre-trial hearing on rebellion charges against Enrile, the lawyers presented sworn statements of 16 security guards at the post Dasmariñas village, where Enrile's house is located, and another witness countering Honasan and the rebel soldiers were not present.

Also, a key defence witness, the Rev. Danilo Dagsaao who celebrated the mass, failed to appear at the hearing.

Military authorities have identified Honasan, Enrile's former security aide, as the leader of the Dec 1-7 uprising that killed 119 people and nearly toppled President Corason Aquino.

Honasan, who also led the Aug 28, 1987, bloody coup attempt, is at large. The military has put up a reward of 1 million pesos (\$50,000) for his capture.

The National Bureau of Investigation has recommended the filing of rebellion charges against Enrile after three witnesses said they saw Honasan and some 100 rebel soldiers during a mass at his residence Dec 1, the day the coup attempt began.

The witnesses are waiters of the five-star Silahis hotel, which catered the mass.

The statement of his acolyte, Antonio Adriano, was presented by the battery of prominent lawyers defending Enrile, the former defence minister who ousted the late 20-year ruler Ferdinand Marcos and catapulted Aquino to power.

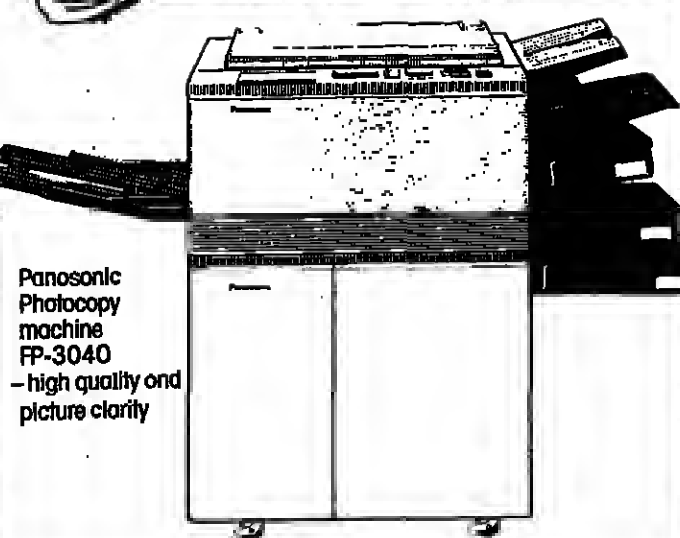
Enrile, who served as Aquino's defence secretary after the 1986 revolt, was fired after his aides, including Honasan, were implicated in an aborted coup attempt against Aquino nine months after she assumed office. A three-mao government panel is conducting the preliminary investigation, which will determine whether rebellion charges should formally be filed in court against Enrile.

## GOOD NEWS PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICES

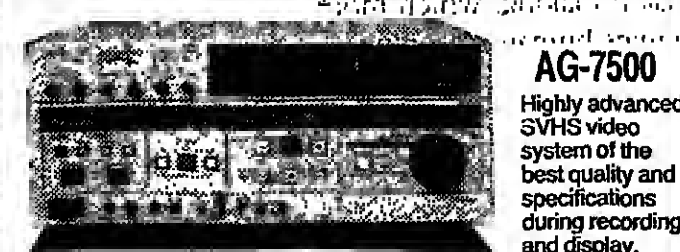
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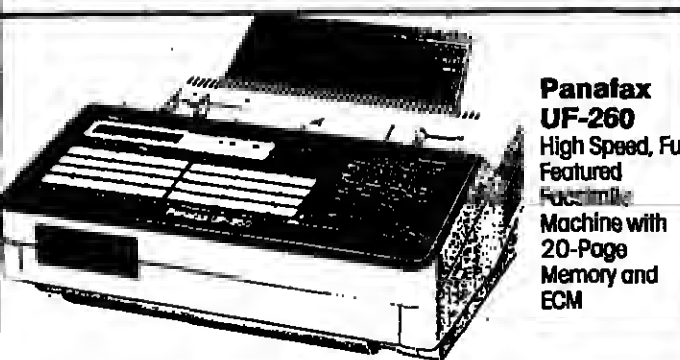


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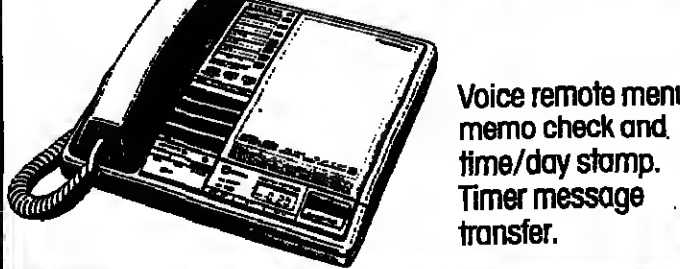


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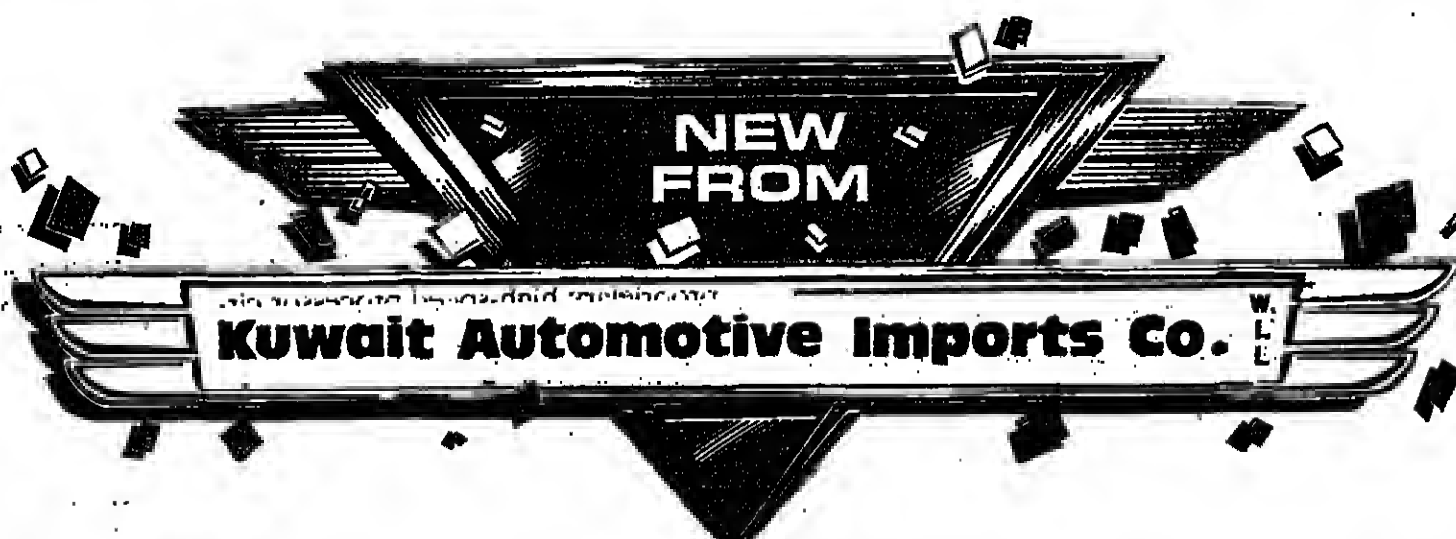


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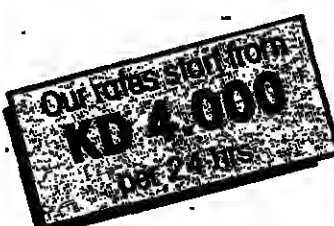


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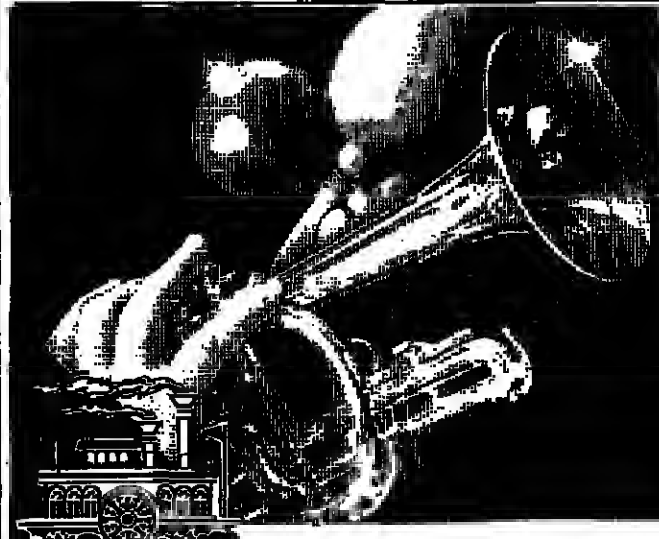
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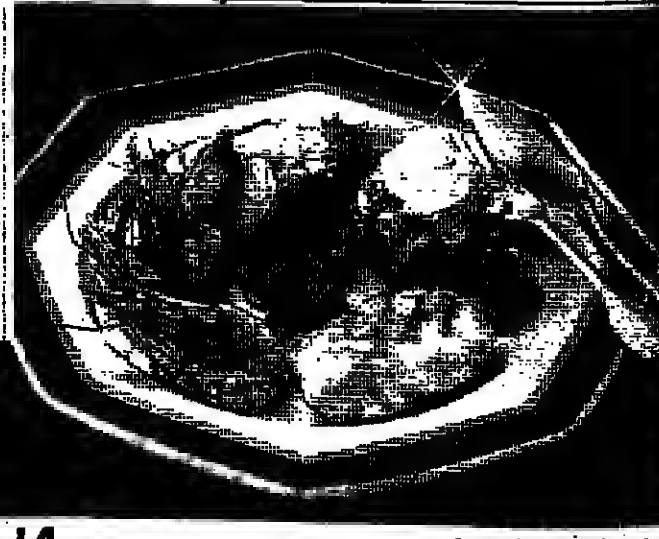
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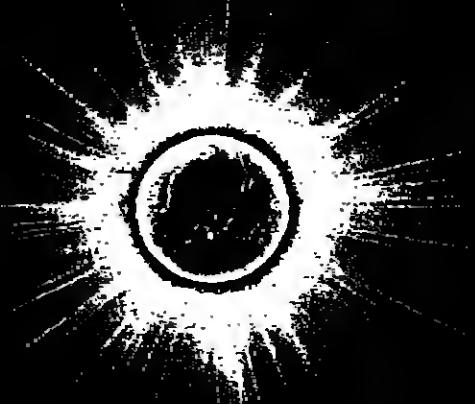


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Yamaichi's Financial Science is grounded in the most advanced market theories and computer technology. CAPMD (Capital Asset Pricing, Multiple Dimensioned) was developed by Global Advanced Technology Corporation (GAT), a New York-based company co-established with Yamaichi in 1987. CAPMD combines the outstanding features of CAPM and APT, yet remedies their deficiencies and incorporates multi-variable analysis. The AR (Arbitrage Free Rate Movement) model provides an integrated framework for pricing all types of fixed-income securities and derivatives, such as mortgage-backed securities, CP, loans, Treasuries, futures and options.

To provide a near-real-time response to changes throughout the world's markets Yamaichi employs

proprietary high-speed processor circuitry. Working 100 times faster than ordinary PCs, this state-of-the-art processor enables users to evaluate changes rapidly.

## Integral-25, the world's first integrated financial information system.

Global investors need at least some combination of multi-dimensional analysis of data, precise risk management capability and the support of an integrated information-gathering system with high-speed processing capabilities, before they can begin to keep abreast of markets.

Integral-25 is a powerful, modular, PC-based super network incorporating all of Yamaichi's Integrative Series products, a global market information system and other existing software. It integrates decision-making support, market information, position management and trading functions.

## The ability to follow every financial instrument on every market for effective asset management.

The Integrative Series is a set of powerful, stand-alone functions designed to aid asset allocation into global markets and currencies, securities analysis and evaluation, portfolio management, risk management, hedging and all other operations necessary for effective asset management. It provides greatly enhanced decision-making support, based on faster, more comprehensive processing of essential data.

The Integrative Series consists of the following 13 systems:

- Integrative Asset Allocation System
- Integrative Bond System
- Integrative Convertible Bond System
- Integrative Data Base System
- Integrative Expert System
- Integrative Forex System
- Integrative Index System
- Integrative Money Market System
- Integrative Option and Future System
- Integrative Position Management System
- Integrative Research System
- Integrative Stock System
- Integrative Trading System

Yamaichi Group companies provide asset management services based on these systems. Here is a description of some of the notable examples.

ISS (Integrative Stock System) is based on the CAPMD model. ISS enables multi-dimensional analysis,

and construction of optimized portfolios of individual stocks. Yamaichi employs ISS in its index-linked portfolio services to manage more thoroughly anticipated risks. While carefully weighing a variety of possible portfolio strategies, investors should be able to aim at investment performance that exceeds the TOPIX.

IES (Integrative Expert System) has been developed as an application of the so-called fuzzy process of computer decision making, which more closely mimics human reasoning. In formulating its market timing recommendations, IES applies numerous rules and inductive reasoning as well as the combined expertise of professionals. With IES, Yamaichi can judge the best timing of investment following a change in the market. Yamaichi anticipates enhanced performance employing IES in conjunction with ISS.

This has been only a brief introduction to Yamaichi's asset management services, now supported by the world's most sophisticated financial data system. In the process of world market integration, the need to analyze information and respond on a global scale is becoming vital. Yamaichi is committed to developing the most advanced financial technologies possible in meeting the full range of customer needs, from financial advice to M&A and general information and analysis.

Contact your nearest Yamaichi office, worldwide, for more information.

A Leader in Financial Science.



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Demolishing Noriega

A workmen hammers at the emblem of Manuel Noriega's crack troop unit, the Meechos del Monte, as work continued on the demolition of his former HQ, Comandancia here. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Peru envoy asked to quit Panama angry

LIMA, Jan 17, (AP): Peru has protested Panama's decision to expel its chargé d'affaires, but has retracted its earlier order for all Panamanian diplomats to leave Peru.

Peruvian Foreign Minister Guillermo Larco Cox said in a communiqué that its embassy in Panama City would remain under the direction of a first secretary to ensure the safety of 12 Panamanians who sought refuge in the Peruvian ambassador's residence last week.

However, he said that Peru will reduce its diplomatic staff by an unspecified number of people. Panamanians inside the residence include Gonzalo Gonzales, a former chief of security for ousted Panamanian leader Manuel Antonio Noriega. Gonzales is wanted by US invasion forces in Panama.

Earlier Tuesday, Larco Cox said that the Peruvian government was giving all Panamanian diplomats 72 hours to leave Peru, after which they "will lose all their diplomatic rights and immunity."

His subsequent communiqué did not explain the change in Peru's position.

If Peru had expelled all of Panama's diplomats, Panama probably would have reciprocated — leaving the

refugee Panamanians without diplomatic personnel to defend them, diplomatic sources in Lima said.

In Panama City, Panamanian Deputy Foreign Minister Juan Castulojovich explained that Peruvian Charge d'Affaires Luis Sandiga Cabrera had been asked to leave the country to protest Peru's questioning the legitimacy of Panamanian President Guillermo Endara's government.

Castulojovich said the decision did not signify a break in diplomatic relations. "The diplomatic missions are being maintained. They are not closing," he said.

Relations between Panama and Peru have been strained since US forces invaded Panama on Dec 20 to overthrow and capture Noriega, who was sought in the United States on drug trafficking charges.

President Alan Garcia of Peru has been one of the strongest critics of the US invasion, and Larco Cox at one point called Endara a "Judas" for allowing US military forces to install him in the presidency.

Endara was widely believed to have been the winner of May 1989 general elections that Noriega nullified.

## Verdict against drug kingpin

## Life without parole

LOS ANGELES, Jan 17, (AP): A federal judge sentenced a Honduran drug kingpin to life in prison without possibility of parole Tuesday, ending one of the largest cocaine trafficking cases in Los Angeles.

US district judge Pamela Rymor sentenced Juan Ramon Matza Ballesteros after he was convicted in September of seven criminal counts, including conspiracy, possession and distribution of narcotics and running a criminal enterprise.

Prosecutors said Matza was head of a powerful cocaine cartel based in Cali, Colombia, that smuggled thousands of kilograms of cocaine through Mexico to the United States.

Matza moved almost 600 pounds (275 kg) of cocaine with a street value of more than \$73 million through Arizona and southern California, prosecutors said.

In a pre-sentencing memorandum filed last month, assistant US attorney Manuel Medrano described Matza as "perhaps the most significant trafficker in custody in the world to date."

## The American School — Kuwait

### Important Announcement

1. Re-enrollment for returning students for the 1990-91 academic year will take place between January 15 and February 15, 1990.
2. Siblings of returning students may be enrolled for the 1990-91 academic year with priority over other new students between January 15 and February 15, 1990.
3. New student applications for the 1990-91 year are now being accepted, but decisions for acceptance will be taken after February 15, 1990.

The school will be unable to guarantee places for its current students, and priority status for the siblings of current students who enroll after February 15, 1990.

## Swiss to hand Noriega records

BERNE, Jan 17, (Agencies): Switzerland will release details of bank accounts linked to former Panamanian strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega to help Washington press its drug-trafficking charges, the Justice Ministry said today.

Details of accounts in Geneva and Zurich, frozen by Swiss authorities when US troops toppled General Noriega last month, will be handed over unless there is an appeal within 10 days, a ministry statement said.

Noriega is in jail in Miami where US authorities are preparing a case against him for allegedly helping smuggle drugs from Colombia to the United States and laundering the profits.

The US Justice Department believes accounts controlled by Noriega in Europe total more than \$10 million.

So far Luxembourg, France and Austria have frozen Noriega funds and Britain has also promised to co-operate in unearthing any accounts held there.

Swiss banks have not said how much money, if any, Noriega holds here.

In Miami, a lawyer for Noriega said yesterday he would try to force key prosecution witnesses to testify during a Jan 26 bond hearing in hopes of discrediting the government's case.

In a change of strategy, Miami lawyer Steven Koffin said the defence team would fight during the hearing to persuade a federal judge to release Noriega from US custody.

The government rarely puts forth witnesses at pre-trial hearings, and the defence is certain to face resistance. Prosecutors plan to argue that Noriega should remain in jail awaiting his trial on drug trafficking charges.

Legal experts note that major drug suspects are seldom granted bail and say Noriega has virtually no chance of winning his freedom. Noriega has been held in a cell beneath the federal courthouse since arriving in Florida after surrendering to US troops in Panama on Jan 3. He is charged with aiding Colombian drug traffickers and pocketing \$4.6 million in bribes.

A US prosecutor said Noriega and a co-defendant smuggled illegal aliens into the United States.

The accusations came during a bond hearing for a minor Noriega drug conspiracy co-defendant, Eduardo Pardo, 44, a Panamanian pilot who alleged flew cocaine sale proceeds from Florida to his homeland.

There is no pardon and there will be no pardon for drug traffickers because it is not provided for in any law," Interior Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds told reporters yesterday.

"The government can do nothing different than comply with the constitution and the laws of the republic," he said. Lemos Simmonds told reporters that by law the

# South Africa is at a turning point: Sisulu

## ANC calls for intensification of struggle

LUSAKA, Jan 17, (Agencies): African National Congress leader Walter Sisulu called yesterday for intensification of the fight against apartheid, although he also said racial tensions are easing and South Africa is at turning point.

Sisulu told about 1,000 exiled ANC members that they should work toward negotiations with the South African government, but pursue their armed struggle to maintain pressure for rapid change of laws mandating racial segregation.

"The political struggle and the armed struggle go side by side," he said.

Sisulu and seven ANC colleagues, all of whom served lengthy prison terms in South Africa, are on a weeklong visit to Lusaka, the guerrilla

movement's exile headquarters. They came to help co-ordinate ANC strategy in the face of a rapidly changing political climate in South Africa.

The 60- and 70-year-old men received a rousing welcome from the ANC members who chanted, sang freedom songs and saluted with clenched fists. The hall was draped in the green, black and gold banners of the ANC and many members wore ANC scarves around their suit collars.

Since South African President F.W. de Klerk assumed power in August, he has allowed opposition groups to protest openly and has urged negotiations on a new constitution that would include a political voice for the black majority.

But de Klerk says the ANC, the main group fighting to undermine the white government, must commit itself to peaceful solutions and end its military campaign before participating in negotiations.

The ANC says the government must lift a state of emergency imposed in the country, legalise the ANC, and end trials and hangings of guerrillas before talks begin.

Sisulu and his colleagues campaign openly for their organisation in South Africa, but the ANC remains outlawed.

Sisulu praised the ANC and its ally, the South African Communist Party, for "taking the initiative" and setting down conditions for talks.

The ANC has an estimated 15,000 members, many of whom are at guerrilla camps in Tanzania and Uganda. The organisation has no offices or military bases in countries bordering South Africa, but it has millions of supporters inside the country.

The ANC's best-known leader, Nelson Mandela, remains in custody after more than 27 years behind bars, but there has been widespread speculation that he will be released soon.

Mandela and the recently released ANC leaders no longer hold formal titles in the ANC, and leadership is a major issue facing the organisation.

The current president, Oliver Tambo, 71, is in a Swedish clinic recovering from a stroke. Sisulu said he intends to visit him before returning home. The ANC in Tanzania said the leaders were expected there on Jan 22.

"We are no longer crying in the wilderness," Sisulu told the ANC activists.

"There is only one road, the road to a non-racial and democratic South Africa and that cannot be avoided," he said.

"This decade will not end without us seeing freedom," Sisulu told the exiles, many of them from Umkhonto we Sizwe, the ANC's armed wing.

A mob of blacks avenging a people's court decision to execute eight people raided a squalid township of Natal province, stabbing three people to death and setting several houses alight, police and witnesses said today.

A police report issued in Pretoria said the deaths raised to nine the number of people killed in political unrest in South Africa over the past 24 hours.

The official report said "a large mob" attacked and stabbed to death three blacks in Willowfontein, an especially poor township outside the Natal city of Pietermaritzburg. It said "serious damage" was caused to property after houses were set ablaze.

Local residents contacted independently said yesterday's killings followed the convening of a people's court on Sunday that convicted eight blacks of murdering a youth the previous week.



## Renoir up for auction

The widow of investor-publisher John Hay Whitney will offer a Renoir from the couple's collection for sale for an estimated \$40 to \$50 million, Sotheby's auction house said Tuesday.

Pierre-Auguste Renoir's 1876 work, acclaimed for its light, shadow and movement, depicts the Moulin de la Galette, a French outdoor dance hall in Montmartre frequented by avant-garde writers, painters and actors.

It shows a model named Estelle sitting at a table with three of Renoir's friends, including biographer Georges Riviere, who later described the painting as "a page of history, a precious moment of Paris life depicted with rigorous examination."

The painting was owned for 60 years by Whitney and his wife, Betty Cushing Whitney. (Reuters wirephoto)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Psychiatrist splashed acid:** A man said to be distraught over the psychiatric treatment of his wife splashed acid in the face of her psychiatrist, who allegedly strangled him to death, police said in Santa Monica, California.

Police detective Shane Talbot said the man "was upset over some type of treatment (the psychiatrist) was prescribing for the deceased's wife."

The 74-year-old man's identity was not immediately released. (AP)

**Evangelist pleads innocent:** Evangelist John Wesley Fletcher pleaded innocent Tuesday to charges he lied to a grand jury about why he introduced PTL founder Jim Bakker to church secretary Jessica Hahn in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Bakker is serving a 45-year prison term after being convicted in October of fraud and conspiracy for diverting \$3.7 million from followers of his PTL empire, which collapsed after his sexual encounter with Ms. Hahn became public.

No trial date was immediately set for Fletcher, 49. (AP)

**Software failure traced:** American Telephone and Telegraph Co. has traced a computer software failure that blocked millions of long-distance calls on Monday to a backup system in New York, a top company official said Tuesday.

Chairman Robert E. Allen also said AT and T plans to offer a discount day for businesses who may have lost money because customers were unable to do business by telephone.

Allen made the comments at a late-morning news conference at the company's network operations centre in Bedminster, New Jersey. (AP)

**What has US done?:** A Mexican advertising group, angry about a TV miniseries on the slaying of a US drug agent, bought full-page ads in three major US newspapers Tuesday to outline Mexico's anti-drug efforts.

"What have you done in the USA?" asks the ad.

placed by Consejo Nacional de La Publicidad, the national advertising council. (AP)

**Duarte still serious:** Former Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte, facing perhaps his final battle against terminal cancer, regained consciousness on Tuesday but continued in serious condition, his doctor said.

"He continues the same, although he regained consciousness," Dr. Jose Luis Saca told reporters. "That's the only change."

Duarte, 64, was semi-comatose on Monday, waking only when stimulated by doctors. A Catholic priest gave him the last rites, a sacrament administered before death. (Reuters)

**Crash victims identified:** Rescue workers, using axes and chainsaws to cut through the wreckage of a crashed plane halfway up a rugged mountain, retrieved all 23 bodies on board Tuesday, officials said.

A news release by Servicios Aereos Nacionales, the company which owned the plane that crashed in bad weather Monday morning, said 15 of the victims were foreigners: nine Canadians, two Americans and three Panamanians.

The rest of the victims were Costa Ricans, including a three-man crew, the news release said. No one survived the crash. (AP)

**Maoist rebels kill 39:** Maoist guerrillas killed 39 peasants in attacks on three highland villages and army troops killed six members of a rebel column that ambushed them, military authorities said Tuesday.

The death toll from Monday's violence was the highest for a single day this year. Military officials in the city of Ayacucho, 235 miles (375 kilometres) southeast of the capital, said Shining Path guerrillas attacked the villages of Aconchinos, Vinchuapampa and San Lazar before dawn Monday while the villagers slept. (AP)

## Soldiers appear in court

### Jesuits massacre case

SAN SALVADOR, Jan 17, (AP): An army colonel, three lieutenants and four soldiers implicated in the massacre of six Roman Catholic priests were brought before a civilian judge yesterday to make statements about the slayings.

Col. Guillermo Benavides arrived at the office of 4th penal court Judge Ricardo Zamora in dress uniform and surrounded by police. He made no comment to reporters, who were kept several yards (meters) away.

The lieutenants, two sergeants, a corporal and a private, also implicated in the Nov 16 massacre, arrived shortly afterward. A ninth soldier who allegedly took part in the slayings deserted last month and is a fugitive.

Zamora has 72 hours to decide if there is enough evidence to charge the men and hold them for trial.

President Alfredo Cristiani on Saturday said the men were the prime suspects in the massacre, which also took the life of a cook and her 15-year-old daughter.

The suspects have been under arrest at several unidentified military and police garrisons in the capital.

Benavides denies ordering the slayings, Cristiani told "Good Morning America," an US television news programme.

"But the junior officers involved expressly have testified that they received a direct order from him," Cristiani said.

All the suspects except the colonel are members of the elite Atlacatl Infantry Battalion. The Atlacatl unit was attached the military college at the time of the massacre. Benavides is director of the college.

## US '90 census to include Arabs

WASHINGTON, Jan 17, (Kuna): For the first time in the US the forthcoming 1990 census will allow Arab-Americans to be counted as an ethnic group and give valuable information on their numbers and other sociological data about them and their families.

The nationwide census is due to be taken on April 1 and is supposed to cover a wide variety of information on Americans, but thanks to the efforts of the Arab American Institute (AAI), the Census Bureau has accepted to include a number of questions concerning Arab-Americans as an ethnic group.

The institute has been negotiating with the racial and ethnic statistics division of the Census Bureau, which has surprisingly demonstrated a keen interest in meeting the needs of ethnic groups, particularly like those of Arab-Americans which fall between the categorisation of neither being Anglo nor a recognised minority like blacks, Latinos, or Asians.

According to Jim Zoghby, president of the Arab-American Institute, three years later, after negotiating everything from ways to improve the accuracy of Arab-Americans on how data on the community can be used, they have agreed to include the composite "Arab" category in statistical publications used by local, state, and federal agencies.

In the past, most Middle Eastern nationalities — persons of Arab, Iranian, Turkish, Armenian descent — were considered Caucasian. The Arab-American population will be counted based on the response to the long form question in the census questionnaire on "ancestry."

Zoghby explained, "thanks to an agreement between the census Bureau and AAI, a category entitled 'Arab ancestry' will be derived from any and all codes that are affiliated with the Arabic-speaking world."

Zoghby said that this means that while individuals may self-identify themselves as Lebanese, Syrian, Palestinian, Egyptian, Arab or Arab-American, these answers will remain separate nationalities but be added into a generic category called Arab for purposes of the official reports issued by the Census Bureau.

This is an important change from 1980 when the first data on ancestry was published. Then, only the largest ancestry groups (European) were able to be specified in official reports with breakdowns by city, congressional district, county etc.

Because the Arabic-speaking ancestries individually are relatively small, they were not specified in the publications that provide the most interesting demographic analysis.

According to Zoghby, the census results are useful to the Arab-American community in at least four ways:

— First, the ancestry question provides Arab-Americans with the only official count of the Arab-American population.

— Second, the census tracks languages spoken in the home, which can provide valuable information about what percentage of Arab-Americans speak Arabic and where.

— Third, important data on immigration history and citizenship are available through the census, helping in the study of the breakdown of the community by citizenship status, place of birth, and length of time in the US.

## Baby boom after Hugo

GASTONIA, North Carolina, Jan 17, (AP): Gaston County is due for a baby boom in June and early July — about nine months after hurricane Hugo hit, doctors say.

The storm knocked out power and essentially shut down the county when it struck in September.

"Any time there is a natural disaster or snowstorm or anything that keeps people at their homes, this happens," said Deborah Hudson, business manager for Gaston Gynecology and Obstetrics, one of two prenatal centres in the county.

By mid-January, the centre already surpassed the number of new patients that showed up in December.

## Colombian government rejects pardon proposal for drug lords as violence rages on

BOGOTA, Jan 17, (Reuters): The Colombian government has rejected a suggestion that it grant a pardon for drug lords in return for a halt in cocaine exports.

"There is no pardon and there will be no pardon for drug traffickers because it is not provided for in any law," Interior Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds told reporters yesterday.

"The government can do nothing different than comply with the constitution and the laws of the republic," he said. Lemos Simmonds told reporters that by law the

government could only pardon guerrillas laying down their arms, not drug traffickers.

His statement was in response to a proposal on Monday by the Roman Catholic church and others for some leniency for the drug lords in return for a halt in cocaine exports and the freeing of hostages.

The proposal was signed by Cardinal Mario Revollo and two ex-presidents, one of them the head of the ruling Liberal Party.

It was also supported by other political leaders, including the head of the Conservative Party, the major opposition party, and the leader of the main

leftist party, the Patriotic Union.

It appeared to indicate that a growing number of politicians believed the five-month drug war was exacting too high a price.

About 193 people have been killed, more than 1,000 people have been injured and millions of dollars of property destroyed in bombings and other attacks since the traffickers declared war on the government in August.

Officials say that in recent months that cartel leaders have also abducted about 20 wealthy Colombians, including the son of President Vir-

gilio Barco's closest aide, German Montoya.

A senior army general said on Tuesday that the drug lords in Medellin, one of the centres of cocaine trafficking, were drawing up a response to the document.

Citing intelligence reports, General Harold Bedoya, head of Medellin's fourth brigade, said the traffickers were drawing up an offer to halt drug exports and free captives in return for a pardon.

In other developments, police dismantled a car bomb made up of half a ton of dynamite.



PEOPLE AND PLACES

**NEW YORK:** Guitars are still thrashed and arenas trashed, but one thing has changed on Motley's latest tour: the heavy metal bad boys remember what they do.

"We only remember bits of past tours," lead singer Vince Neil said in this week's *People* magazine.

Booze, drugs, and more drugs left the band members' memories as fuzzy as their guitar sound, until bassist Nikki Sixx nearly died of a heroin overdose in 1987.

The entire *Cruc* checked into a drug rehabilitation programme, and now a drug counsellor follows them around on tour to help them stay on the wagon, the magazine said.

But concertgoers have not yet mistaken the group for advocates of temperance.

"We don't just play rock and roll, we live it," Sixx said. "We go on tour and get broken bones, diseases, the crowd leaves bloody. It's more like going to war." (AP)



Partially frozen

Rescue workers carry five-year-old George Sader after he was pulled from a partially frozen pond in Centerville, Va. on Jan. 15. The boy was trapped under the ice for 40 minutes before being rescued. He was taken to hospital where he was placed on a heart-lung machine to bring his temperature down to normal. (Reuter wirephoto)

**NEW YORK:** Jason Connery, son of the consummate James Bond, Sean Connery, is to star in a television movie as Ian Fleming, the author and creator of agent 007.

"Freud would have a field day with this one," Jason Connery said in this week's *People* magazine.

"The thing is that I'm compared continually to my father — so I thought, if it's a good script, just do it," he said. "People will say what

they want to anyway, so I didn't feel any pressure.

The younger Connery says his famous father has not intruded in his acting career.

**LOS ANGELES:** Troy Hayden, teenage son of actress Jane Fonda and her former husband Tom Hayden, was arrested early Monday after police caught a group of boys spray-painting graffiti at a parking lot, authorities said.

"I can't give out his name since he's a juvenile," said Sergeant Rick Walker. "He indicates he's the son of Jane Fonda. We've verified it."

The 16-year-old, Ma Fonda's only son, was arrested about 1:30 am near the San Diego Freeway, Walker said.

"He and seven other young gentlemen were applying graffiti to phone booths and posts at a park-and-ride," Walker said. The sergeant did not know what the graffiti said.

The boy was booked for investigation of vandalism and breaking a 10 pm curfew, both misdemeanour violations.

Ma Fonda and Hayden, a long-time activist and Democratic member of the California assembly, dissolved their marriage last year.

**మాస్కో క్రింద**  
పల్లెటూరు పల్లెటూరు  
అమ్మాయి మనస్సు  
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అమ్మాయి కథ  
భక్త: అమ్మాయి  
మనస్సు  
Khalaf Video Center  
Opp. Safat Post Office - Murug

# Legal battle over Byzantine icons

**CHICAGO, Jan. 17, (AP):** The Greek Orthodox Church and the government of Cyprus forfeited its right to historic religious mosaics when they failed to track down the thief who sold them to an Indiana art dealer, an attorney said yesterday.

The argument was made before the 7th circuit court of appeals, which has been asked to overturn a lower court order that art dealer Peg Goldberg return the 6th century Byzantine mosaic fragments to the Greek Orthodox

Church of Cyprus.

The mosaics, among only a handful of Byzantine icons surviving from the first centuries of Christianity, are in a vault in Indianapolis pending the appeals court ruling.

Mr. Goldberg's attorney, Joe C. Emerson, told the three-judge panel that US district Judge James E. Noland erred last summer in his ruling that the suburban Indianapolis art dealer had not obtained legal title when she purchased the four fragments from a Turk, now believed to have stolen them.

Emerson argued in Tuesday's appeal, as he had done in the lower court trial, that Indiana's six-year statute of limitations barred the Cypriot church and the Republic of Cyprus from suing to recover the artifacts.

"If you have been hurt, you've got six years to find out who did it to you," Emerson said. "Six years was plenty of time for Cyprus to have recovered the mosaics."

But Thomas R. Kline, attorney for the Cypriot church and the Republic of Cyprus said, "these holy mosaics were stolen from the Church of Cyprus and they must be returned to the Church of Cyprus because under Indiana law a thief cannot pass good title," he said.

Emerson told the court that the Cypriots discovered the mosaics missing in 1979, and had until 1985 under the statute of limitations to recover them. He said they were not "diligent" in pursuing the stolen items.

## Bull terriers eat off lady's arms

**LOS ANGELES, Jan. 17, (AP):** Two pit bull terriers mauled a 70-year-old woman, gnawing the flesh off her arms in a 30-minute attack at her grandson's home, officials said.

"She has puncture wounds on most of her torso and all the flesh had been eaten off both arms from the wrist to the shoulder," said police Lt. Alan Kerstein.

Marjorie Lilly of San Diego was in critical condition at County-USC medical center. Surgeons amputated her left arm and worked on her right arm in six hours of surgery, said hospital spokeswoman Adelaida de la Cerda.

Mrs. Lilly was visiting her 34-year-old grandson, Clarence Hubbard, at his Los Angeles home, and knew the 14-month-old pit bulls, which weighed 45 to 50 pounds (20 to 23 kgs), said Kerstein.

### Attacked

Hubbard returned to the house Tuesday and found his grandmother on the floor, Kerstein said. "Both dogs were sitting close by in the corner of the room."

Mrs. Lilly, who was conscious, told officers the dogs became excited and attacked while she was pouring food for them from a large bag. The woman, who is only 4 feet, 11 inches (150 cms) tall and weighs 130 pounds (59 kgs), was no match for the frenzied animals.

The dogs were taken to the city animal shelter. Kerstein said he indicated he wanted them destroyed.

## Syndrome X mislabelled as neurotic or hysteric

# Chest pain artery disorder sign

**SAN ANTONIO, Jan. 17, (AP):** Tens of thousands of women in the United States diagnosed each year with chest pain and no signs of heart disease may be suffering from a treatable disorder of the small arteries, a researcher said yesterday.

Many of these women, who often experience intense pain, are being treated for psychiatric disorders because no physical symptoms can be found with conventional tests, said Dr. Richard Cannon of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute in Bethesda, Maryland.

"Many have been mislabelled as neurotic or hysterical women," Cannon said. "They truly have a pain syndrome."

Among their symptoms is a condition Cannon calls "sensitive heart," in which they experience sharp pain when test probes are threaded into arteries near their hearts. Ordinarily such probes produce no pain,

Cannon said. He described his research at the American Heart Association's annual science writers' forum.

His studies have shown that many of the patients are suffering from a disorder he calls microvascular angina, in which blood flow may be blocked in very tiny arteries that nourish the heart.

The arteries are too small to show up on angiograms, in which dye is injected into the larger coronary arteries to look for blockages, he said. The condition has sometimes been called "Syndrome X," because its cause was unknown.

Cannon said that about 100,000 people in the United States each year have chest pain, or angina, with no evidence of blockage of the coronary arteries. Most are women.

The condition may be common in men, too, but it occurs in middle age and later when

many men already have developed coronary artery blockages. Those blockages hide underlying microvascular angina, Cannon said.

A variety of treatments exist to relieve the pain, Cannon said. The treatments include many of the standard heart drugs.

The patients are identified in part because they have reduced flow of blood to the heart, Cannon said.

Studies have shown that the patients appear to have a disorder of the so-called "smooth muscle" in arteries. The smooth muscle causes arteries to tighten and relax as they help regulate blood pressure and blood flow.

The patients are unusually sensitive to drugs that constrict the blood vessels, and somewhat insensitive to drugs that relax blood vessels, Cannon said.

**THE ENGLISH SCHOOL**  
— FAHAHEEL KUWAIT —  
**SCHOOL OPEN DAY / REGISTRATION**  
(For September 1990)  
Applications for entry into Kindergarten — Infant, Junior Departments for the academic year 1990/91, beginning September 1990, are now being accepted.  
Admission will be by interview and / or examination.  
The School will be open for prospective parents and students to visit on THURSDAY 18th JANUARY 1990 between 8.30 am and 12 noon.  
Further details and application forms are available from the administrative offices.  
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## Hou fills gap left by China dissidents

BEIJING, Jan 17, (AP): With China's best-known dissidents jailed, exiled or in hiding, a popular folk singer is trying to fill the void with protest songs and calls for democracy.

"You could say I'm the world's stupidest, most amateur dissident," Hou Dejian said, laughing and shaking his head in mock self-ridicule during a recent interview.

"I'm not a politician. I had friends who were dissidents, but I'm a professional musician," he said, with elaborate emphasis. "But right now, I'm trying to figure out how to become a passable dissident."

Hou, 33, is no ordinary mainland musician. He is the Taiwanese-born son of a nationalist soldier who fought against the communists. Seeking his roots, Hou visited the communist mainland as an established star in 1983 and decided to stay.

The darling of the government, he was allowed to keep living like a star, with two homes and two cars, one a maroon Mercedes Benz.

The skinny, chain-smoking Hou, usually clad in black leather jacket and boots, is famous among Chinese on the mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong for his Boh Dylan-influenced songs about social concerns, such as the endangered pandas, and about the worries of youth.

He became known to Westerners in the final days of China's student democracy movement last spring, when he and three friends began a hunger strike in Tiananmen Square to protest martial law. Many students were already leaving the square out of fear, and the hunger strike infused the movement with new spirit.

Less than 48 hours later on June 4, when tanks poised on the square's edge, Hou negotiated with the army to allow the remaining students to retreat peacefully, possibly saving hundreds of lives.

Now, he is again trying to keep the spirit of democracy alive, taking advantage of his relative freedom as a defector.

"I can say more than ordinary Chinese," Hou said. So he has begun "making a little noise," giving interviews to foreign journalists and singing for them the half-dozen songs he has written about the democracy movement — songs he knows no mainland company can record now.

"Friends who love freedom, spread our wings," one ballad goes. "Listen carefully, no one can lie again. Open your eyes, no one can twist the truth again."

Hou has not worked out any philosophy of government or theories about the relative merits of communism and capitalism. "I'm not a political scientist. I say, ask all the Chinese people and then decide."

### Alternative

All he wants is provide an alternative to the Communist Party voice that has filled the airwaves and newspapers since June with relentless condemnation of the democracy movement.

"Because you can't hear other voices that doesn't mean there's stability," he said, picking words carefully while he picked out chords on his electric guitar. "We have an ancient tyrant culture. A real change would mean changing the slaves, not changing the tyrant. Although it's slow, there is change. Most people in Beijing took part in the movement and... they are not as afraid as before."

Hou said the movement wiped away his feeling of being an outsider on the mainland.

That is why during the summer, when he hid from police for more than two months in the Australian embassy in Beijing, he did not apply for asylum. He came out Aug 15, as soon as the Foreign Ministry promised he would not be arrested or deported.

### Deal

Some Chinese suspected a deal when he told government television two days later that he did not see anyone killed in Tiananmen Square during the June 3-4 army attack.

Authorities insist no one died in the square, while acknowledging about 300 deaths elsewhere in the city. Many Chinese say the toll was much higher, and Western security sources say the toll may have been 3,000.

But Hou said he made no deal. "I can only say I didn't see anyone die. That doesn't prove no one died."

Two of the three friends who went on hunger strike with Hou remain jailed. One was freed in December.

Hou was tailed by police for a while, and has not been allowed so far to travel inside China or to Australia, where his wife, pop singer Cheng Lin, fled in June.

## Suu Kyi barred from Burmese polls

### Crowds protest Election Commission's decision

RANGOON, Jan 17, (UPI): The Rangoon Election Commission has decided to bar arrested opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi from running for parliament in general elections, sparking brief protests in the capital, the panel announced today.

Armed troops guarded the capital today after Suu Kyi was barred from running in polls, Western diplomats said.

A Western diplomat reached by telephone from Bangkok said large numbers of soldiers who had entered the capital in trucks the previous day were guarding areas including City Hall, where the election commission has offices.

The Rangoon division decision reverses a township level commission's ruling a week ago that would have allowed the charismatic Aung San Suu Kyi, the 44-year-old daughter of Burmese independence hero Gen. Aung San, to run for Parliament in the general

elections scheduled for May 27.

The commission's decision has raised doubts that the military government will keep its promise to hold free and fair multi-party elections, said an unnamed diplomat contacted by telephone in Rangoon.

The township level decision was appealed by the National Unity Party, which was formed by the military and ruled Burma from 1962 to 1988. The military seized direct power in Sept 1988 from the faltering one-party government amid nationwide demonstrations demanding democracy.

The military crushed the protests, killing at least 500 people according to a military count. Diplomats say more than 1,000 people were killed.

Aung San Suu Kyi has been under house arrest since July 20 for criticizing the military. The division level commission agreed with the National Unity Party appeal that Aung

Suu Kyi had given up her right to run for Parliament by marrying a Briton and residing in Britain.

It also charged that she and her party, the National League for Democracy, violated election laws by maintaining links with underground insurgent groups.

A spokesman for the League said the division-level decision would be appealed to the Central Election Commission, whose decision is final.

A crowd gathered at the city hall prior to the latest ruling, witnesses said. Troops and police guarding the city hall quickly dispersed the crowd and restored order, they said. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Additional troops and armed police moved into the city centre to guard key points and main streets.

In campaigns around the country, Aung San Suu Kyi displayed growing popularity.



Suu Kyi addressing a meeting before her arrest in July 1989. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Accord on Cambodia

### Big five to push truce, free polls

PARIS, Jan 17, (AP): The permanent members of the UN Security Council have agreed to move quickly to seek a ceasefire and free elections in Cambodia under UN administration.

The five countries concluded last night by setting out a 16-point summary of principles, focused on "an enhanced UN role" in bringing peace to Cambodia.

Representatives of the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France are to meet again in New York in about two weeks, then again in late February in Paris to push the peace programme ahead as quickly as possible.

"We're at least going to make a strong try at it," said a senior US official briefing reporters on condition of anonymity. "We're not talking about a process that would take several years, but it's clear it will take several months."

The five countries said a special representative of UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar would be in charge of United Nations activities in Cambodia during an unspecified transition period leading to elections.

They called for "an effective UN presence" to assure internal security, apparently a reference to a peacekeeping force. It says the elections "must be conducted under direct UN administration" that would "assure" a neutral political environment in which no party would be advantaged.

"An enduring peace can only be achieved through a comprehensive political settlement, including the verified withdrawal of foreign forces, a ceasefire and the cessation of outside military assistance," the statement said.

"The goal should be self-determination for the Cambodian people through free, fair and democratic elections."

Points set out in the statement do not deal with some of the most difficult issues — such as whether to dissolve the existing administration of Premier Hun Sen's Vietnamese-backed government or what to do about Cambodia's United Nations seat, currently held by the three-party guerrilla coalition led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

The statement does not even refer directly to Hun Sen, Sihanouk or the Khmer Rouge. Cambodia's brutal military from 1975 to 1978 who are now allied with Sihanouk and another non-communist resistance group.

It appeared to draw heavily from ideas floated by Australia and by US Rep. Stephen Solarz for expanding the United Nations role in Cambodia.

Hun Sen's government and the three guerrilla factions have shown varying degrees of enthusiasm for the idea, but none have rejected it out of hand.

Pressure to find a solution has grown with reports of stepped-up Khmer Rouge attacks in western Cambodia. Without large numbers of Vietnamese troops to help, it is not clear how well Hun Sen's forces will stand up to the guerrillas.

A peace conference last summer in Paris foundered on disagreement over proposals for a temporary administration of all four Cambodian factions to run the country until elections chose new leaders. Hun Sen refused to consider letting the Khmer Rouge in, while Sihanouk rejected any idea of keeping them out.



US soldiers gaze at pictures of mine fields and obstacles alleged to be built in the demilitarized zone that divides North and South Korea. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Gulags hold 150,000 in NK

### Seoul abusing rights

SEOUL, Jan 17, (AP): North Korea is holding more than 150,000 political prisoners in concentration camps called "diplomatic districts," according to South Korean press reports today.

The number of political prisoners in North Korea amounts to 0.7 per cent of its population of 21 million, said the reports in most newspapers in Seoul.

They added that the number would continue to increase as the hard-line communist government in Pyongyang steps up a crackdown following sweeping moves toward greater democracy in Eastern Europe.

The reports said South Korean intelligence authorities had verified through defectors and "other sources" that there has been a sharp increase in the number of concentration camps and political prisoners in North Korea in recent years.

"The situation (in North Korea) is much worse than that of the notorious Stalin era in the Soviet Union," the Yonhap news agency quoted one official as saying.

North Korea conducted a nationwide security check on its people in the late 1960s and banished tens of thousands of "dangerous figures" to concentration camps in remote mountainous areas, the reports quoted the officials as saying.

"There were eight such camps in 1982 but the number has increased to 12, and the number of prisoners held there also increased from 105,000 to 152,000," the reports quoted one official as saying.

Among those kept in the "diplomatic districts" are several former

North Korean cabinet ministers purged in the 1980s, including Hong Sung Ryong and Kim Kyung Ryun, the reports said.

Lee Kun Min, a former North Korean premier who has not been seen in public since late 1988, also is believed held in one of the concentration camps, the reports quoted the officials as saying.

The communist leadership of North Korea has tightened its controls since reform swept East Europe and diplomats say a Romanian-style revolt is inconceivable.

Diplomats told reporters during a rare visit to Pyongyang by western media that foreign news had been further restricted since events in Romania and the personality cult of top leader Kim Il-Sung and his son Kim Jong-Il was being reinforced.

"At New Year celebrations this year I saw for the first time students make a kowtow — forehead touching the ground — to great leader Kim Il-Sung," said one East European diplomat.

Kim permeates every aspect of North Korean life.

In another report Amnesty International said mass arrests and the reported torture of prisoners have reversed a two-year trend of human rights improvements in South Korea.

The international human rights group said in a report that 800 political and trade union activists have been arrested in political opposition by President Roh Tae-Woo's government.

## China to trade dissident for loan

TOKYO, Jan 17, (Reuters): Washington and Beijing are working on a deal that could allow a top dissident to leave China in exchange for the resumption of much needed World Bank loans, diplomats and political analysts said today.

US diplomats declined to comment, but an Asian diplomat said Beijing would agree to let astrophysicist Fang Lizhi leave the US embassy in Beijing and leave the country if certain conditions were met.

Fang must agree to go to a third country — not the United States or France — promise not to engage in political activities there and write a confession admitting wrongdoing. Also World Bank lending must be resumed, the diplomat said.

The deal was being worked on by diplomats in Beijing and Washington, diplomats in Tokyo said. The talks were fraught with difficulty due to mutual suspicion and a desire by both sides to preserve face, the analysts said.

The diplomats declined to say when the talks began. Top astrophysicist Fang Lizhi and his wife received asylum in the US embassy shortly after a military crackdown on student-led pro-democracy demonstrations last June, enabling the couple to escape arrest and possible execution.

Beijing has denounced Fang as a wanted criminal and repeatedly called on the embassy to hand him over to police. His presence in the embassy has become a major obstacle to improvement in Sino-US relations.

A US diplomat in Tokyo could not comment on Fang's situation, other than describing it as "very sensitive." US diplomats in Beijing have also declined to comment.

A Japanese official said the deal could be scuppered by the US Congress, which convenes later this month and is likely to pass tough legislation that would make a resumption of loans more difficult by imposing stiff conditions.

Loans from the World Bank and Western governments were frozen last June to protest against the military crackdown, which was followed by a halt on most commercial lending.

Japanese banks, the biggest lenders, have said they will not resume loans before the World Bank for fear of upsetting US congressional and public opinion.

A church missionary bulletin said yesterday that Chinese authorities have intensified their suppression of the Roman Catholic Church, carrying out a "wave of arrests" of clergy loyal to the Pope.



### Work-out

American dance choreographer Norman Walker (right) works with dancers from Central Ballet of China during a dress rehearsal in Beijing. (Reuters wirephoto)

### NEWS IN BRIEF

**All you need is love:** The Beatles told the world that all you need is love, but Paul McCartney says he and songwriting partner John Lennon took a much more mercenary view when they composed their classic '60s songs.

"Somebody said to me, 'the Beatles were anti-materialistic.' That's a huge myth," McCartney says in the Feb 8 issue of Rolling Stone magazine. "John and I literally used to sit down and say, 'now let's write a swimming pool.'"

McCartney, 47, is currently in the middle of his first tour since 1975. But he says the "Flowers in the Dirt" shows are not an attempt to claim the Beatles' legacy for himself. (AP)

**Quake jolts Australia:** An earthquake of 5.5 on the Richter scale jolted the remote state of Western Australia on Wednesday, less than one month after a tremor shook the eastern seaboard, killing 12 people in the city of Newcastle.

Officials said Wednesday's quake had the same strength as the one that hit Dec 28 in Australia's first fatal earthquake. Newcastle, an industrial centre and the country's sixth largest city with 300,000 people, is still assessing the damage.

Hundreds of buildings in the city centre suffered structural damage from the quake. (AP)

**3 Lockheed employees detained:** Three employees of a US aerospace company have been detained in Chad during what company officials called a "misunderstanding" with the government.

The three men are technical representatives sent to look after some C-130 Hercules airplanes sold to Chad by Lockheed Aeronautical Systems-Georgia, company spokesman Dick Martin said Tuesday night.

Martin said Lockheed agreed to set up an office in Chad for one year after the sale of the aircraft, so company technicians could help maintain the planes and explain their use. (AP)

**1-year prison term for libel:** A woman writer has been sentenced to one year in prison in China for libel after a writer jailed for libel, an official daily said Wednesday.

The China Daily said Tang Min, 34, received the one-year prison term and was fined 2,000 yuan (\$425 US) by a court in the southeastern city of Xiamen for defaming a person who appears in a 1986 book. (AP)

**Stoltenberg elected:** Thorvald Stoltenberg, a former Norwegian foreign minister and ambassador to the United Nations, has started work as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, heading an agency responsible for 15 million refugees world-wide, a UNHCR spokesman said Tuesday.

Raymond Hall said Stoltenberg arrived in Geneva on Monday. He was elected for a four-year term by the UN General Assembly on Nov 20 to replace Jean-Pierre Hocke, who resigned following allegations he had misused funds.

The 58-year-old Norwegian takes over as head of the agency at a time when it is struggling with an unprecedented financial crisis and ever increasing number of refugees. (AP)

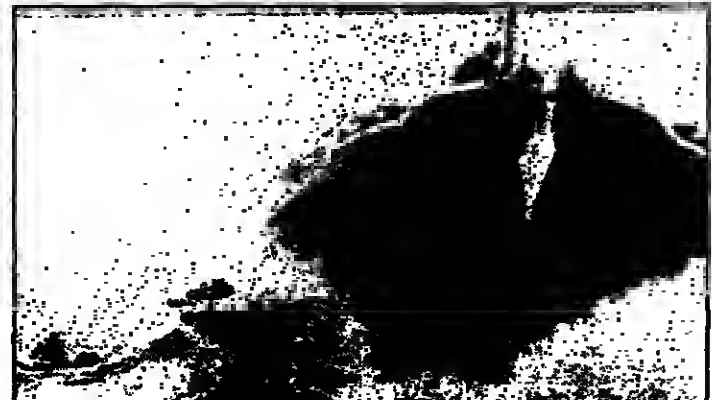
**10 Indonesians die:** Ten Indonesians were killed and 31 other hospitalized Tuesday in a highway accident as they were on their way to work at a Sabah forest industries plantation near Sipitang, 1,460 kilometres (910 miles) east of the capital.

An assistant superintendent of police Ooneng Muda told the national news agency Bernama in Kota Kinabalu, the capital of Sabah state, that one worker died at the Beaufort district hospital and the rest died at the scene. (AP)

**China to help separated couples:** China plans to amend its unpopular practice of forcing some married couples to live and work in different cities, an official daily said Wednesday.

The China Daily said the state council, China's cabinet, has worked out a policy to help the 300,000 state-employed couples now living apart get back together.

Senior intellectuals will be given priority for reunions between married persons, it said. People with doctorates or who are involved in high technology jobs will automatically qualify for relocation. (AP)



### Protester arrested

A Greenpeace protester is arrested on the Central Electricity Generating Board's dump ship MVA after Greenpeace activists tried to stop the ship from dumping its cargo of waste from the electricity industry. (Reuters wirephoto)



### La Croix collection

Designer Christian La Croix puts finishing touches to his high fashion collection which will be presented during the spring-summer Paris fashion shows on Jan 21. (Reuters wirephoto)



### Remember Profumo

The Princess of Wales chats with former British cabinet minister John Profumo (2nd from right) during a visit to Toynton Hall care and leisure centre for the elderly run by the Universities Settlement in east London. (Reuters wirephoto)

**Tokyo's first snow fall:** For a metropolis that normally hums along like a well-tuned engine, Tokyo had the brakes put on by a few inches (centimetres) of unseasoned snow.

Fast became slow. Safe became slippery. The international airport closed for two hours. Bullet trains performed like penguins. You couldn't set your watch according to the normally tick-tock commuter trains Tuesday; they were running late.

Snowball fights raged in schoolyards Wednesday morning as this city of 12 million, chilled by almost-freezing temperatures and with a light blanket of snow glistening in the sun, approached normal speed after a day on tiptoes. (AP)

## Rebels kill 11 in Bougainville

PORT Moresby, Australia, Jan 17, (AP): Six people died and 11 were wounded when separatist rebels attacked a jail on the troubled, copper-rich island of Bougainville.

Authorities said it was one of the fiercest gunbattles in 14 months of unrest.

State of emergency controller, Police Commissioner Paul Tobian said between 70 and 100 militants armed with shotguns attacked on Kaveira jail just north of the provincial capital Arawa before dawn.

Australian Associated Press said four wardens, a civilian and a child died. The wounded included eight wardens and three prisoners. Most of the jail was destroyed. There was no official explanation for why the jail was attacked.

## Hong Kong top officials will not have right to live abroad: Beijing

HONG KONG, Jan 17, (AP): China today further hardened its position toward Hong Kong by deciding that top officials in the territory's post-1997 government would not have the right to live abroad, Hong Kong government radio said.

A top Chinese official also announced that Hong Kong residents with British passports would not be allowed to seek British consular protection while in the territory after it returns to Chinese rule in seven years.

Last month, China outlawed "subversive groups" from operating in the territory after 1997.

The basic law drafting committee, which is writing the blueprint for post-1997 Hong Kong, decided in Canton that the territory's chief executive, its principal officers and all of its executive councillors would not be granted the right to live in another country.

Government radio said the committee hadn't decided whether to ban the territory's two top judges and all of its legislators from possessing the right to live abroad.

Under the basic law, Hong Kong's top officials already are prohibited from holding a foreign pas-

port. The committee's move marked a further restriction on politicians' activities, prohibiting them from holding, for example, a residence permit for Canada or Britain.

The decision appeared to be a reaction to Britain's proposal in December to offer passports to 50,000 key Hong Kong officials and professionals as part of a security net.

Confidence in China's promise to maintain Hong Kong's free-wheeling capitalist system for 50 years after it takes over has been shaken since the bloody June 4 military crackdown in Beijing.

Britain had said it hoped the passport package would boost confidence by encouraging the key residents to stay in the territory by giving them a last resort.

But China says the package violates the 1984 agreement under which Britain will hand the colony back to China.

Lu Ping, the deputy secretary-general of the drafting committee, also said the British Consulate in Hong Kong would be prohibited from helping Hong Kong residents with British passports after 1997.



# Gang fight in HK camps

HONG KONG, Jan 17, (Reuters): A Vietnamese man has been killed in a gang fight in the latest outbreak of violence at Hong Kong's crowded refugee camps and aid workers warn conditions there are rapidly deteriorating.

Police said today that a 39-year-old man was killed and nine other injured when a gang of 20 armed with makeshift weapons burst into a hut at Whitehead camp during the night.

"About 20 masked people rushed into camp number four with weapons and attacked the people inside," a police spokesman said.

The latest violence broke out as international aid workers warned that conditions in the camps were deteriorating rapidly under the continued threat of forced repatriation.

"It's difficult to explain the mood of desperation that has set in. Morale has been plummeting in recent weeks and things like this are going to be more frequent," one camp worker said.

Hong Kong, which has 56,000 boat people jammed into its camps, regards 43,000 of them as potential illegal immigrants, and has imposed a policy of forced repatriation.

The abrupt deportation of 51 last December under a secret deal with Hanoi sent shockwaves through the camps.

"Most people have been here so long they have become institutionalised. You get people who make the best of their lives, but there are some who just give up," the worker said.

# Questions raised over killing of Ire robbers

DUBLIN, Jan 17, (Agencies): Robbers never once opened fire when Irish police foiled a bank raid that ended with one robber dead and eight people injured, a ballistics report revealed today.

The report, which could be deeply embarrassing for the Irish police, showed that all the injuries were caused by police weapons. The injured included three policemen.

One of the raiders, thought to be Dublin criminals rather than Irish Republican Army guerrillas on a fund-raising mission, died in hospital after Friday's raid at a bank in Athy, south-west of Dublin.

The next day, British undercover soldiers shot dead three petty criminals robbing a betting shop in Belfast.

The Dublin government asked for a report on that shooting from the British government and Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey expressed "very serious disquiet and misgivings".

The Athy incident began when police surrounded the bank with the raiders, staff and customers inside. Detectives believe police began shooting when one of the gang appeared at the door with a bank employee and threatened to "blow his head off".



Unveiling beauty  
Miss Moscow 1988, Mariya Kalina, unveils the new Cabriolet version of the Soviet-engineered Lada Samara car at the Belgian car show in Brussels. (Reuters wirephoto)

# US troops to quit if Europe wants

East-West military talks

VIENNA, Jan 17, (Agencies): US joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell, opening informal talks between Eastern and Western military leaders, said those on both sides of the crumbling iron curtain agree "the era of confrontation must end."

General Powell, head of a large US delegation to the three-week conference, also said yesterday that American troops stationed in Europe are not "sacrosanct."

"American troops are not occupying forces," he said, noting that President Bush has said US forces will stay in Europe only as long as the governments and people of Western Europe welcome them and Nato thinks they are needed.

The general's remarks came as the talks on security and defence began behind closed doors in Vienna's Hofburg Palace between chiefs of staff from 35 nations, including members of Nato and the Warsaw Pact as well as non-aligned European countries.

The unprecedented gathering billed as a seminar on "confidence and security building measures" in Europe, is intended as an exercise in informal frankness aimed at making progress on European arms reductions.

But the seminar is not a formal negotiation and specific results are not expected. There will be no concluding document.

Powell's Soviet counterpart, Chief of staff Gen. Mikhail Moiseev, said he is convinced the United States and Nato are no longer aggressively inclined toward the Soviet Union and its allies, but that "the military threat has not disappeared."

The Soviet commander said Moscow had gradually adopted a policy that "rejects wars as a means of settling international disputes and contradictions — economic, political, ideological, or any other."

War has become "obsolete, unacceptable and inadmissible" in the "world of nuclear deterrence," he said.

Another high-ranking Soviet general acknowledged today that the political changes among Moscow's East European allies will affect the Warsaw Pact military alliance.

"There will be changes in structure," said Gen. Nikolai Chervov, head of the directorate of the Soviet general staff.

But he said the final form of those changes hasn't been decided.

Powell also indicated the threat of East-West military confrontation was diminishing.

"East and West have reached a common conclusion that the era of confrontation in Europe must end," Powell said.

"Sharing in this vision, we can all work together to usher in a new era of European peace, security and freedom."

He said changes in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, along with broad arms reductions negotiations and East-West summitry, have brought hope to the world.

Nato, he said, was "enormously heartened by the declarations and initial evidence of an historic redefinition and restructuring of Warsaw Pact doctrine and forces to a defensive posture."

Powell said that brought the East Bloc into line with US military policy, which was also defensive.

"It is inconceivable that an alliance whose posture and purposes are subject to such intense public scrutiny in 16 democratic societies could ever undertake aggressive military action," Powell said.

He said the United States does "not impose our views or military strategies on the alliance. Consultations are fundamental to the existence of Nato... our disagreements take place under the glare of public scrutiny."

Powell said there was no reason why military power in Europe should remain as it had for 40 years. Headed by the United States, he hoped one day that military demands on European allies would be greatly diminished.

# IRA letter bomb found

LONDON, Jan 17, (AP): Two letter bombs addressed to army officers in England were discovered yesterday before they could explode, and Scotland Yard indicated it suspected the Irish Republican Army was involved.

"The public must be vigilant when opening mail," said commander George Chubb-Coleman, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch. "If at all suspicious they must be urged to contact police immediately and leave the parcel alone."

Military personnel and those involved in public life who are connected with Northern Ireland affairs are particularly vulnerable," he added.

Both bombs were discovered at the army's district headquarters in Aldershot, 40 miles (64 kms) southwest of London. Both devices were destroyed in controlled explosions.

The army headquarters were evacuated, police said. Two other suspicious pieces of mail were checked and found to be harmless.

No group claimed responsibility for the devices, and police said postmarks on the two brown padded envelopes were smudged.

The IRA's last letter-bomb campaign on mainland Britain was three years ago when senior civil servants were the targets.

## Belgian doctor amputates wrong leg

A Belgian doctor amputated the wrong limb from a 76-year-old patient after being told by his chief surgeon that the patient's "other" leg, a court heard on Tuesday.

## US homicide rate jumps

The city dubbed the US "murder capital" already has jumped ahead of last year's record-breaking homicide rate, recording 25 slayings since the beginning of 1990, the Washington Post reported Wednesday.

## UK tenor wins ovation

British tenor Jeffrey Lawton won a tumultuous ovation at London's Royal Opera after performing a Spanish star's role in a production of Verdi's Otello.

## Scuffle at shareholders meeting

A scuffle broke out Tuesday at the annual shareholders meeting of Wellcome PLC when a shareholder questioned profits being made on a drug used to treat AIDS.

## US miners shootout kills one

A dispute between union and non-union miners near a coal mine erupted in gunfire, and a union picket was killed and two other people were wounded, authorities said.

## Sick Pope apologises

A pale Pope John Paul II, suffering from influenza, apologised to pilgrims at his weekly audience on Wednesday for giving them a shorter speech than usual.

## Cure for prostate trouble

A Belgian company claims it has found a painless way to cure the delicate male problem of swollen prostate glands — by using a treatment similar to microwave cooking.

## Restrictions removed

The US military airlift command has removed restrictions barring women from being crew members on cargo airdrop missions, an air force spokesman said Tuesday.

## FDA cuts AZT dose

The Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday cut in half the recommended dose of the drug AZT for AIDS patients who are on the medication for more than a month, though many physicians may already be prescribing lower doses.

## Journalists call strike

Journalists at the daily La Repubblica and other publications of the Arnoldo Mondadori group called a three-day strike on Tuesday to protest new ownership of Italy's biggest publishing company.

## Police kill 4 bandits

Italian kidnapping raid

## Cruise files for divorce

LOS ANGELES, Jan 17, (Reuters): Tom Cruise, star of the box office hit "Born on the Fourth of July," filed for divorce yesterday from his wife of 31 months, actress Mimi Rogers.

A paramilitary police squad shot dead four members of one of Calabria's feared bandit gangs as they tried to abduct an industrialist's daughter in northern Italy, police said yesterday.

The four men, aged 26 to 39, were killed instantly while one policeman was wounded in the arm.

Police said they sprang an ambush last evening when four bandits, two dressed as police, drove up to a factory office near Luno, where the owner's daughter, 27-year-old Antonella Dalia, was working.

Police had stalked out the homes and workplaces of four possible kidnappers after warnings that a Calabrian clan was on a raid in the north of Italy.

# Police overpower man who tried to hijack American plane to Cuba

AUSTIN, Texas, Jan 17, (AP): A man claiming he had a bomb took over an America West airliner and demanded to be flown to Cuba, but was arrested soon after the plane made an emergency landing in Austin, police said.

No one was seriously injured last night during flight 727 from Houston to Las Vegas or the arrest at Robert Mueller municipal airport, officials said.

The man said he had a bomb and had some electronic device that linked when he pointed to the front of the aircraft, said passenger Herb Atwood of Cold Spring, Texas.

The man ordered all the passengers to move to the front of the aircraft, Atwood said.

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# EMF hazard exaggerated: Shihab Eldin

## No scientific evidence available so far

KUWAIT, Jan 17, (Kuna): A leading Kuwaiti scientist argues that health hazards associated with exposure to power lines electromagnetic field (EMF) have been exaggerated and dramatised by the media and he strongly contends the association is not necessarily causal.

Dr Adnan Shihab Eldin, a principal research scientist at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, agrees, however, that there is "a theoretical possibility" that a small cancer risk could stem from exposure to EMF.

Shihab Eldin offered the analysis when approached by Kuna to comment on a series of articles published last June in the American weekly magazine, "The New Yorker," which maintained that EMF exposure could be significantly hazardous to human health.

Referring to the reported cancer risk in cases of exposure to EMF, Shihab Eldin stresses in his analysis that "the likelihood of such a theoretical possibility is small enough not to warrant any fears, concerns or additional actions at present."

He says further research is needed and is being carried out to better understand and resolve the inconclusive findings of the few epidemiological studies that showed weak association between EMF exposure and cancer.

Claims of such hazards, he emphasised, are not proven or supported by the totality of the scientific evidence. Research or known principles available so far.

Shihab Eldin, a former director-general of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, holds a Ph.D. in nuclear physics and engineering from the University of California at Berkeley (1970). He was a visiting scholar at Harvard, Cornell and Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory in (1987-1989). He is the author of many books, papers, articles and reports in the field of nuclear physics, radiation effects and energy.

### Warnings

"The New Yorker's" articles were not the first to caution against hazards of significant risk to the public from exposure to EMF near power lines or inside homes, as numerous reports had appeared in the media issuing similar warnings.

Shihab Eldin said the risks referred to "The New Yorker" articles by Paul Brouder, were based primarily on "impartially selected few epidemiological studies that have shown some weak association between incidence rates of leukemia and other cancer and exposures, among certain groups of children and adults, to weak electric and magnetic fields."

The articles overstressed the importance, and the validity of these few early studies while discrediting or obscuring all contrary evidence and results from a host of other epidemiological and experimental studies, he said.

The Kuwaiti scientist also noted that the articles tinged the scientific presentations

with a dramatic and novel-like narration of proceedings of few court cases brought against power companies, which made the articles read "like a script for a new Hollywood movie."

Emphasising that association between EMF exposure and risk, while necessary, is not sufficient to prove "casualty", Shihab Eldin said a number of other criteria must be satisfied for an association to be causal.

Among these are: strength of association, consistency, temporality (cause should precede effect in time) biological gradient, biological plausibility and coherence and experimental evidence.

So far, none of these criteria, he went on, has been shown to be valid in case of EMF hazards.

Most epidemiological studies carried out have shown no association between EMF exposure and cancer incidence rate outside the normal random statistical fluctuation within the confidence limits of these studies, he says.

Shihab Eldin, citing his review of relevant scientific literature and private communications with key specialists and experts concludes that:

"There is no proof that electromagnetic fields generated by overhead power lines or domestic transmission lines and appliances operating within regulatory limits and/or manufacturer specification are harmful to human health."

"The epidemiological and experimental studies have failed so far to show any

evidence linking EMFs with cancer neither among adults nor among children exposed. They have also failed to prove the most basic requirements of toxicology and carcinogenesis — namely, the existence of dose-response relationship."

"There is, however, still a very slight possibility, based on few inconclusive epidemiological studies showing very weak association, that some people under some circumstances may be exposed to some additional small hazards from EMFs exposure. We emphasise: small possibility of small effect exist, but very improbable."

"We must nevertheless be prudent and wise. Present regulation regarding power line zones, wiring of transmission line and appliance specifications, should be followed and enforced, but unwarranted fear or panic should be avoided. We must remember, after all, that life is an electrochemical process, that all living systems, including our bodies, depend for their proper functioning on the interaction between chemical processes and electric currents."

"The internal body EMFs at the cell boundaries far exceed those resulting from exposure to power lines, transmission lines and appliances, properly used. The risk to society from electrocution, resulting from misuse and malfunctioning of electrical appliances and wiring, will most likely prove to far exceed the risk from exposure to EMFs from power lines and appliances, if such risk is ever discovered and proven."

# Transplant law awareness essential, says specialist

## Proposal to reduce impediments

A KIDNEY specialist at Mubarak Al Kaber Hospital said that 100 to 150 patients die in Kuwait every year due to kidney failure and added that 50 to 75 donors per year could positively reduce the death rate due to kidney failure.

Speaking at a seminar held at the Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research (KISR), Dr Mustafa Al Musawi said that patients die after one week of contracting complete kidney failure.

He defined total kidney failure as a state when both kidneys of the patient fail to function. Such patients, he said, need dialysis of both kidneys at least three times a week — on each occasion the patient has to be hospitalised for four hours. Dialysis is not a cure, but only rids the body of accumulated toxins and prolongs life. Transplants are the only alternative, the doctor said.

Dr Bader Al Yacoub from the Faculty of Law of Kuwait University said that Kuwaiti laws cope with latest scientific and medical developments in the field of organ transplants. The laws allow and encourage the donation of organs according to Muslim scholars and specialised Islamic bodies, provided these donations are not commercialised. Further, organs cannot be donated, if the act would harm the health of the donor. A law was issued in 1987 to organise the issue of donation of human organs, Yacoub said.

Head of the Transplants Department at the Faculty of Medicine at Kuwait University, Dr George Abouma stressed the need for acquainting doctors and people with the provisions and articles of the transplants law.

Speaking at a symposium on "Transplants and cerebral death" organised by the Faculty of Medicine, he said that only eight cases of cerebral deaths were reported last year and family consent for transplant was given in only four cases.

He stressed the need for setting up a special committee to superv-

ise the implementation of regulations on transplants to facilitate the transfer of donated parts and overcome potential impediments.

Dr Ojail Nashmi, dean of the College of Islamic Studies, said that it was possible from the Islamic viewpoint to use a human part from the same person to treat another diseased area, on the condition that the rates of success and benefit were higher than those of risk and failure, and that the operation would not psychologically mar the person involved.

He added that it was equally possible to use an organ from a person to another if the used part could biologically or naturally be replenished in the giver's body, such as blood, skin and others.

He pointed out that it was also possible to take a safe organ in a diseased part which was meant for extraction, such as the corner of a cancerous eye that needed surgical removal.

Dr Bader Al Yacoub, later on reviewed the laws enforced on transplants in Kuwait and compared them to laws of similar function enforced in foreign countries, stressing that Kuwait kept pace with the technological advancement in the world by legislating special statutes on transplants, basically derived from the Islamic Sharia.

He pointed out that it was legally approved, with the conditional consent of three specialists to take an organ from a diseased person to replace the malfunctioning organ of an ill person whose life could be at stake, which remained to be finally endorsed by the Ministry of Public Health.

Speaking on another medical issue, Dr Marwan Sulaiman Al Mutawa, director of the first psychiatry centre to be established in Kuwait said that most people here have formulated wrong concepts of psychiatry and the methods of treatment.

However, he commented that with the increase in education, travelling abroad and being exposed to advanced concepts, this mistaken concept is gradually being replaced with a level of confidence in this form of treatment.

He indicated that psychiatry is a specialised science and treats patients on a personal basis in an effort to provide them with guidance and assistance.

Speaking to a local daily, he said that the centre's first priority is to get the patient to confide in his psychiatrist and stressed that all information is kept strictly confidential.

The official said that to assist members of society to better appreciate the benefits of psychiatry, more efforts should be made by the mass media to enlighten the population of the efficacy of this branch of science.

The centre introduces several services directed towards providing various forms of assistance related to problems of the mind. The centre conducts various IQ tests to indicate educational problems. Other services include providing social advice to married couples.

The official said that it is essential to reach complete co-ordination between the centre and various work establishments as the centre prepares studies and researches in the field of mental stresses of employees and provides, establishments with advice, to improve employees' performance.

Meanwhile, Public Health Ministry undersecretary Dr Naei Al Nagebi has said that the positions vacated at the ministry recently will be filled by highly qualified cadres from the existing staff.

He held a local daily that the positions vacated by the resignation of the ministry's assistant undersecretary for Pharmaceutical Affairs and Medical Supplies Ibrahim Al Mudaf and the assistant undersecretary for Administrative and Legal Affairs Abdul Karim Al Saed fall within the above category.

# Premier chairs planning meeting

KUWAIT, Jan 17, (Kuna): His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Salem Al Sabah today presided over the third meeting of the Supreme Council for Planning.

The council's Secretary General Fuad Mulla Hussein said the council discussed a project on establishment of a petrochemical complex. He said the project was referred to the council by HH the Crown Prince and Premier, Chairman of the Council.

In a statement to Kuna, Hussein said chairman of the economic committee thanked HH for referring the project to the council for consideration, adding it was in line with the country's long-term development strategy.

He said the council decided to adjourn discussion of the issue to another meeting to listen to the opinion of Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah.

Hussein said chairman of the social services committee presented a report on the impact of alien phenomena on the Kuwaiti community, adding the council had asked the committee to conduct more research on the issue with the aim of introducing some amendments prior to discussing it in the upcoming session.

He said the committee on demographic policies and development of human resources submitted a report based on a long-term strategy with the aim of increasing productivity, adjusting the country's population and preserving the identity of the community.

The council's secretary general said HH the Crown Prince and premier had hailed the positive recommendations contained in the report and reiterated the government's keenness on developing human resources.

He added that the council endorsed the strategy which would be referred to the council of ministers for final approval.

# Only weeds

KUWAIT, Jan 17, (Kuna): The Kuwaiti coasts are free of oil pollution, the Environment Protection Council said here today.

Secretary of the council Ibrahim Mohammed Hadi told Kuna that what citizens see floating on the coastal waters is but brown weeds that are of the shape of small balls.

# Jleeb Shuyookh residents happy with changes

JLEEB Shuyookh Area has witnessed many good changes in constructional development during the past decade and a local daily interviewed a number of residents to highlight their opinions and views on the area utilities and services.

Rasheed Jaber stated that Jleeb Shuyookh now is much better than before adding that projects and maintenance works have begun to show visible signs of benefit. The Ministry of Public Works exerts efforts towards the maintenance of roads and streets since several months ago.

He pointed out that Jleeb Shuyookh has become a clean area due to residents efforts in complying with the cleanliness law as also due to Kuwait Municipality cleaning operations. He indicated that despite these developments in the area, some roads at some residential blocks are still unpaved causing dust particularly during summer season. He hoped that officials at the Public Works Ministry will redress this problem as soon as possible.

On the other hand, looking at lighting columns in the area, many require maintenance and have been out of order since a long time ago. He said that such services require regular maintenance to light the area. He also hoped for more efforts in numbering the area blocks and plots for better guidance.

All Jaseem stated that Jleeb Shuyookh Co-operative Society is fully serving its purpose. He praised the level of prices compared with prices offered at other co-operative societies in the country. He added that it is highly beneficial that it stays open 24 hours a day.

# From the courts

## Court upholds death verdict in murder case

THE Court of Higher Appeals has upheld the verdict of death issued by the Criminal Court against a man charged with the premeditated murder of his mistress's husband, but, reduced the sentence of the woman to life imprisonment.

The court was told that the mistress opened the front door of her house and permitted her paramour to enter the bedroom of her husband where he was fast asleep. The accused then stabbed the husband to death.

### Play charges

THE Appeal Court Misdemeanours has adjourned looking into charges brought against the well-known Kuwaiti comedian, Abdul Hussein Abdul Rida for his role in the play entitled "Hada Saifou" (That's His Sword) which is alleged to have mocked Islamic values and preachers.

The court acquitted the three

other artists involved, Khaled Al Nafisi, Saad Al Faraj and Mohammad Al Saye.

### Wife murder

THE Criminal Court has adjourned the case of a man charged with killing his wife for refusing to sleep with him pending a psychiatric evaluation.

### Gold thief

SECURITYMEN in Salmiya have arrested a Kuwaiti youth on charges of absconding with K.D.3,000 worth of gold ornaments.

The court was told that the suspect had visited a jeweller and asked if he could take some gold samples to show his old mother. The jeweller agreed and sent one of his employees with the accused.

However, on the way, the youth pretended that something was wrong with his car and asked the boy to assist him. Immediately, as the boy alighted

from the car, the suspect drove off.

On being apprehended, he confessed that he had sold the gold for half its normal value. The jewellery was recovered in full and returned to the owner.

### Smuggling

THE Police Patrol Command in Jahra last Wednesday successfully foiled an attempt to smuggle into the country through the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border.

The patrol chased the driver of a Nissan Gloria car who refused an order to stop and had to resort to shooting the tyres of the suspects car to bring it to a halt.

On investigation the accused and his companion were found to be carrying 279 bottles of liquor, two medical syringes, one carton of drug pills, and two magazines of 59 bullets.

The accused and the contraband have been referred to investigative authorities.

# Medical emergency department expanded

By Nashat Al Agha

THE Deputy Director of Medical Emergency Department at Kuwait's Ministry of Public Health, Dr Mohammed Al Sharan said that the department has been provided with a choice of specialists and is chaired by an experienced doctor.

In an interview with the daily Al-Sayassah, the official said that the department has expanded fields of training in addition to addressing any contingency of emergency cases. The department, last November had organised a seminar on the issue of treating casualties, which was attended by a number of specialists from different countries.

### Divisions

The department consists of several divisions, including a relief division, technical, training division and an equipment and supply division. The department has a fleet of 100 ambulances equipped with the state-of-the-art equipment.

The official said that the training division is a vital division and represents a major vehicle towards achieving the department's goals in the field of training. This division supervised the training courses for doctors, technicians and relief staff in addition to the first aid training.

The department is staffed by a total of 430 employees and the department is offering incentives to Kuwaitis to join the department's activities, the official said.

### Bayan accord

KUWAIT, Jan 17, (Kuna): Minister of Public Works Abdul Rahman Ibrahim Al Houti today signed an accord to start the second phase of the construction site of Al Bayan Palace.

The K.D.191-million project, undertaken by a local construction company, will be executed in 378 days.



### New computer introduced

Smile Electronics, Appliances and Computers introduced the new Weaners Boldline M Series of computers at a press conference held at Kuwait International Hotel Tuesday. Chye Hin Ang, account manager for the Middle East of MUMPS Systems Support, a Singapore-based member of Weaners Technology, demonstrated the computer that features a unique built-in upgrade system on the motherboard. He said that this computer will benefit users in the long run because they need not invest heavily in future technology until software technology catches up. Weaners Technology calls its new computer "The Computer With the Future Built-In."

# British minister in Sharjah

ABU DHABI, Jan 17 (Kuna): British Minister for Trade Lord Trefgarne today met in Sharjah with ruler of Sharjah emirate and member of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Supreme Council Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasbi.

Earlier today, he conferred with ruler of Ras Al Khaima emirate Sheikh Saqr Bin Mohammed Al Qasbi.

Trefgarne told Kuna here today following the two meetings that talks tackled means of boosting trade and economic relations between Britain and the UAE.

Last night, he was quoted as saying the UK government is keen to bring about a free trade agreement between the ECC and the GCC.

Trefgarne told reporters at the Middle East Electricity (MEE) '90 exhibition in Dubai that prospects for such an agreement were already bright.

He pointed out that British exports to the UAE this year rose by 22 per cent as compared to 1988.



# Labourers decry abuse of human rights

State implementing measures to redress issue

By Lima Al Khalafawi  
Arab Times Staff

"NO one in the whole world turns his employee into a slave and ruins his life for the sake of a little amount of money and sponsors should have sympathy for their employees," said a Sri Lankan worker A.S. Surasna.

Surasna, who was duped by a recruitment agency in his country, told the Arab Times that he is facing hard times with his sponsor.

Surasna's personal documents were confiscated by his sponsor and he was not paid for several months. The worker who is a qualified technician, was cheated by the recruitment agency who sent him to Kuwait as a driver without telling him about his job here. Surasna was shocked when he came here and found out that he would be working as a driver at his employer's house.

Being an inept as a driver, Surasna says he was beaten by his sponsor. The frightened worker said that his sponsor is negotiating with his community to sort out the problem and send him back home while his employer insists on making him work for his fare. My sponsor beat me several times and refused to give me my passport, because I refused to work with him as a driver," Surasna said. Funds were raised by his community to help and send him back home. Surasna concluded that being brought here at a low wage of KD40 should not be misinterpreted to mean that he is a very cheap human being.

"This KD40 does not give me any sponsor's right to beat me. Any civilised 'human' being should send his employee back home if things do not come up to his expectations," he added.

A 28-year-old Sri Lankan worker Hishan Adhitha who works for a private company said that he came here through a recruitment agency and is paid KD30 per month. Since his arrival he was forced to sign another contract and was paid only KD25 plus accommodation. When he asked for a pay raise after five years, he got an increment of one dinar. Adhitha, who felt humiliated by this one dinar raise, changed to another sponsor but his employer threatened to cancel his residence. He added that he preferred not to file a case against his sponsor because he was told it would take a long time in court.

**Trauma**  
Another 22 Sri Lankan cleaners suffered the trauma of non-payment followed by the threat of deportation during April last year. Workers not paid for two months insisted on not signing any pledge with the company. Their passports and other personal documents were not with them to prove their residence in Kuwait.

These workers sought the assistance of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour to get their dues and residence that have not been provided to them since their arrival. Their sponsor says that they are liars and claimed they were being paid regularly. The cleaners' monthly salaries range from KD25 to 35.

An official at the Sri Lankan embassy said that workers comprise 30 per cent of the 90,000 Sri Lankan community in Kuwait, who mainly work in cleaning companies, electric firms, road works and construction companies.

He added that around 10 to 15 complaints are received daily by the embassy for non-payment and change of residence. The embassy tries to contact the sponsor and sort out the problem. If they fail, the complaint is filed at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. If the

case remains unsolved it is then referred to court.

The official said that workers with low wages cannot pay for lawyers and the embassy cannot do much because they came from Colombo to Kuwait through an agent without the knowledge of the embassy here. However, the embassy tries to help them.

He added that recruiting agencies in Sri Lanka including Kuwait are unlicensed, resulting in workers falling prey to these unscrupulous people by their false promises. Most of these workers are illiterate and are seeking better jobs outside their country. The result is exploitation at very cheap wages for large numbers due to the fact that there is no ban on travelling abroad.

**Alternatives**  
The official added that other alternatives should be sought such as a ban on the travel of large numbers and allow other employment avenues to workers in their country. The outflow of workers to the Middle East should also be regulated, he said.

He said that it is very difficult to specify a set of workers' wages because of competition among Asian countries and stressed on the importance of a unified study among Asian countries to regulate and organise the export of labourers to the Middle East.

Many workers in construction and cleaning companies went on strike last year for non-payment. Among them were 900 workers who were repatriated to India on April 26, 1989.

These were employed on a section of Al Qurain Housing Project and went on strike on Jan 17, 1989 for non-payment of wages for four months. Three strikes were staged by the workers. However, after a breakthrough was reached in talks in New Delhi, the employer agreed to make an ad hoc payment of KD49,000 as part of outstanding wages and bear the repatriation costs. The labourers were owed more than KD135,000 in back wages. Workers on strike were on the verge of starvation and lived in pathetic conditions until Indian volunteer groups were asked to feed them and then the Indian Embassy took over from volunteers from India.

**Second Contract**  
The First Secretary at the Indian Embassy, Varghese George, said that the number of Indians in Kuwait is about 150,000 of whom 60 per cent work in the construction, oil, administrative, cleaning and other similar jobs.

He added that the main problems for workers here are non-payment, under-payment and delay of payment. Most of the workers who come to us with complaints are not only concerned about the quantum but also about non-payment.

"We only come to know about the second work contract when the workers complain to us about non-payment and the matter is taken to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour," George said. (He explained that the first contract is signed abroad while the worker is induced to sign a second work contract when he arrives in Kuwait).

He said that if there is a second contract then we cannot do much, but it is a matter of interpretation on which is valid. Any employee recruited from India has to get all the papers attested from the concerned authorities there to work abroad. He added that advice is given to the worker before travelling, to abide by the original contract.

He added that in case any worker seeks the help of the embassy, it tries to solve the problem and negotiate with the sponsor, to reach an amicable settlement. If negotiations fail,

interests. The UAE welcomes the development of co-operation with the United States and is keen to see this co-operation ... serving issues of joint concern and helping confront causes and joint interests because any friendship that does not mean mutual benefit has no future," Sheikh Zayed said.

The United States, he added, had major responsibilities and interests in the Arab and Islamic world and was called upon to "co-operate positively with the Arab states to find solutions to the problems they face, led by the Palestinian problem and the Iran-Iraq conflict."

Sheikh Zayed, an ardent supporter of Pan-Arab issues led by the Palestinian problem, has often blasted Washington on charges that it was biased towards Israel. But he has always insisted that his country harboured friendship for the United States.



Expatriate labourers ... living in pathetic conditions and faced with long working hours, non-payment of wages and assault.

the issue is referred to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour according to the procedure here and then to the court if it is still unsolved.

Suresh M. Mathur, the Second Secretary at the Indian Embassy, said that generally no problems are encountered on transfer of residence because most workers come with a limited work contract, especially in the construction sector. If a transfer is not possible locally then the worker can re-enter with a new visa after cancelling the old one.

About the numbers of Indians employed in the cleaning companies, he said that recently, not many Indians are working in the cleaning sector due to the fact that wages are lower than those prescribed by the Indian government.

About cases filed by workers regarding non-payment, the official said that some get compensation while they are here, others when they go back and unfortunately some get nothing at all. He added that it is often difficult to solve these problems if the sponsor does not respond or co-operate. Thus the showing up of the sponsor can spare both parties such problems.

**Controversy**

A group of eight Egyptian workers told the Arab Times that they work in the construction sector. Thirty-six year old Ahmed Abdul Moutawi, who works in a big construction company, said he and other friends came here through an agency in Cairo and are paid between KD 5 to 10 daily. He admitted that they face no problem here except transferring from one sponsor to another. He added that the article in the new labour regulation that states the three year period made things difficult for them. This restricted the mobility of many workers here and caused inconvenience between the employers and workers.

Moutawi added that he paid about KD 400 in Cairo to come here, yet he was able to save money and send it back home. For accommodation, he is living with other friends in Farwaniya Area in one room for KD 13 per month. Moutawi plans to stay here for another four years to save enough money to buy a piece of land.

Abdul Ghafour Sha'ban, who is 40 years old, is works as an electrician in a construction company. He said that he is

working with a sub-contractor and has been here for nine years. He likes working here because he is saving KD 45 every month after sending money to his family. He brought his cousin here and both are working for the same company.

Another Egyptian worker, Sa'ad Hani, who was upset about the term of the three year change of residence, said that this will delay the activation in the private sector. By this term many workers who wanted to join other companies are forced to cancel their residence and re-enter with a new one. This added a heavy burden on the immigration department and created controversy among businessmen and companies. He added that if this term is amended with other relaxations, workers in the private sector will benefit.

The Egyptian Consul-general to Kuwait, Saeed Sultan, told the Arab Times that the Egyptian workforce is about 24 per cent of the total foreign workforce. He said that in 1988 the total number of Egyptians working here was 161,875 with the following breakdown: 42,212 technical, 23,346 clerical, 15,317 services, 5,631 agricultural, 47,173 factory and 1,396 in managerial jobs. However the total number had increased in 1989.

Sultan added that in 1989, around 1000 cases or more sought help from the consulate for non-payment or non-transfer of residence. Most of these workers were either engineers or workers in construction companies with low payment of three and a half dinars per day.

The official said that problems start when some workers are not paid and fall under the apparent injustice of the sponsor. In addition to that, many cannot transfer their residence, which is always interpreted in favour of the employer.

He added that the Egyptian consulate looks after the interests of its people and follows their complaints. Those who left without getting their dues can grant a power of attorney to the consulate to follow up their cases.

Now studies in Egypt are underway to protect the rights and dignity of workers abroad and find a balance between the cost of the work performed and the worker's wages. The study will focus on addressing the phenomena of duped workers through false contracts known in the Gulf area as a no-objection

visa. The official said that a real balance in the relation between the worker and his employer is required.

**Measures**

The Assistant Undersecretary for Labour Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Mohamed Al Shaban, acknowledged that delay in payment of workers' wages in the last few years by some companies was due to economic circumstances.

To redress this issue, the ministry has implemented the following measures:

Settle such disputes amicably or refer them to labour court, and in the final analysis boycott dealing with such firms.

Regarding the non-payment of workers, the ministry issued a decree No. 89/1989 which stipulates that every firm recruiting workers from abroad should deposit KD 250 for each worker along with a letter from the bank confirming that this amount is at the ministry's disposal if the firm breaches its commitments to employees' wages.

Speaking on the transfer of residence, the official said that this can be done after the worker has been employed for a minimum period of three years with the same sponsor. Whenever problems arise, the case is referred to the Residence Department for a gradual decision, the official said.

He added that since the implementation of the Labour Law in 1964, no fees are charged for any case filed by an employee and these cases are quickly processed. In this respect, the Labour Court at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour only deals with labour disputes and to facilitate speeding up the process, a special judge is appointed at the Court of First Instance.

In some exceptional cases, delays do occur which result from the need for financial experts to undertake an in-depth study, the official said.

Shaban, in an interview with one of the Arabic dailies in Dec 1989, said that the present labour law pertaining to the private sector does not allow the establishment of private sector recruitment agencies for import of labourers.

He added that the ministry allows local companies to import workers who are needed only for their projects. It also does not allow a shortage in the workforce which might increase the level of salaries. The state continues to

increase the national manpower working in the private sector.

He said that the ministry tries to create a balance between the needs of the local market for manpower and the social and security risks that occur from the increasing number of workers who are not really necessary.

In a recent interview with the Arab Times, Shaban said that labour regulations issued last year to regulate the labourers in the private sector have adversely affected the flow of expatriates into the country. Only 10 sectors in the private sector can recruit foreign labourers. However, other factors influencing the flow of expatriate manpower to Kuwait originate from outside the ministry.

He added that about 64,000 expatriate labourers entered Kuwait for the first time in 1988 and over 27,800 left the country permanently. This leaves a net of about 36,200 labourers who added to expatriate manpower during 1988.

He said that the number of expatriate immigrants to Kuwait and their movements are influenced by a number of factors, some determined and controlled by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour's measures to protect labourers in the private sector regarding security deposit states that this amount of money should be provided in the form of a bank guarantee issued by a Kuwaiti bank to the concerned labour department. This decision fixed the respective amounts as follows:

Establishments employing up to 500 — KD 250 per worker.  
Establishments employing more than 1000 workers — KD 200 per worker.

Establishments employing more than 1000 workers — KD 150 per worker.

**Guarantees**

Another article states that the employer should authorise the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour or his deputy to withdraw such amounts as may be required by the ministry for disbursement to workers. Such authorisations by the employer should be forthcoming no later than 15 days after receiving intimation from the ministry by registered mail. The bank guarantee cannot be considered cancelled until the ministry instructs the bank to this effect. Any violation of these decisions will be dealt with legally, the ministerial decision said.

The rules of this decision are applied to the following establishments:

Employers contracting to execute government projects. Companies, establishments and contractors involved in contracting business.

Firms, which, in the opinion of the ministry warrant a bank guarantee.

On the matter of transfer of labour residence, Article 16 of the new regulations of the labour law states that: Any labour permit issued in respect of a labourer to serve a certain employer shall not be transferred to another employer before at least three years, whether such a labourer was brought from abroad or locally employed. The validity of relevant duration shall commence to run with effect from the date of issuing the labour permit.

In the event of terminating the employment contract concluded between employer and labourer within this period for any reason whatsoever, the employer shall be held liable for the repatriation of such labourer, even if he/she is locally employed.

With regard to government projects, labourers shall not be transferred from one employer to another during the valid period of the contract, even if it exceeds the duration provided for herein before, save in the case of project contract withdrawal from the principal contractor, for re-adjudication in the favour of another contractor.

Labourers may then be transferred to the latter, without applying the duration condition stipulated hereof.

Upon the expiry of the government contract, the employer may transfer such labourers to another employer of a similar project, or repatriate them pursuant to the provisions of this resolution. This minister may exempt any person, as he deems appropriate, from the condition of the duration stipulated in this article.

Article 17 states that the ministry may exempt those who have been residing in Kuwait for a constant period of 10 years from the provision of the duration stipulated in the preceding article, if the relevant labour contract has been terminated under the consent of the employer concerned, or in accordance with the provisions of either Article 57 or Article 59 of the Private Sector Labour Law.

The Director of Expert's Department at the Ministry of Justice, Khalid A. Al Mudhaf,

told the Arab Times that the number of labour cases with the Expert's Department at the ministry was 1,546 last year compared to 1,598 in 1988.

He said that those cases concerned wages of labourers and added that not so long ago cases of this concern would take up to more than one year when referred to the expert's department. Fortunately now, due to the increase in the number of experts and the new decree of the Justice minister in Nov 1988, such cases will take four months maximum. The number of experts in the department increased to 28 since 1987. Thus the expert's department and the ministry gives priority to labour cases.

The official said that after labour cases are referred from the court to the department, a specialised expert immediately fixes appointments for concerned parties to discuss and submit their documents. At the end, the expert will provide the court with a detailed report. These reports, however are not hiding on the court.

Mudhaf stressed that the role of the department concerning labour disputes is based on labour law of the private sector.

The new regulations of labour law are directed at regulating residence affairs and are not under the department's affairs.

He added that the number of cases for change of residence did not increase in 1989 as compared to 1988.

The official concluded that the expert's department concentrates on entitlements and dues on cases referred to it by the pertinent court.

Lawyer Khalid Taher said that the second work contract does not stipulate that it cancels the first, it is regarded as it complements the first one.

He added that if both contracts are submitted before the court then the judge may approve the contract that is in favour of the labourer.

Taher stressed that signing a work contract should be done through a legal adviser or through the embassy to avoid any future problems. He added that any worker whose residence is cancelled while the case is in process can get a certificate signed from the court, with full details after each session to submit it to the concerned authorities/immigration Administration and the Ministry of Social Affairs asking for permission to extend his residence.

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## Sheikh Zayed calls on US help in name of friendship

ABU DHABI, Jan 17, (AP): Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, today called on the United States to help solve the Palestinian problem in the name of its friendship with Arab states.

He also urged the United States to use its force as a superpower to turn the Iran-Iraq ceasefire into a lasting peace for the rest of the Gulf region.

### Responsibilities

"The problems of the Middle East are painful problems, and a true friend cannot remain silent at the pain of his friend," said the UAE President as he received the credentials of the new American ambassador, Edward Walker.

The United States, he said in the statements distributed by the official news agency Wam, should give priority to relations with nations with which it was bound by friendship and mutual

interests. The UAE welcomes the development of co-operation with the United States and is keen to see this co-operation ... serving issues of joint concern and helping confront causes and joint interests because any friendship that does not mean mutual benefit has no future," Sheikh Zayed said.

The United States, he added, had major responsibilities and interests in the Arab and Islamic world and was called upon to "co-operate positively with the Arab states to find solutions to the problems they face, led by the Palestinian problem and the Iran-Iraq conflict."

Sheikh Zayed, an ardent supporter of Pan-Arab issues led by the Palestinian problem, has often blasted Washington on charges that it was biased towards Israel. But he has always insisted that his country harboured friendship for the United States.

## Amiri pardon for 250 prisoners

By Salem Al Wawan

THE Interior Ministry has reportedly finished preparing lists of prisoners to be covered by the Amiri amnesty on the occasion of the country's National Day.

Sources quoted by Seyasah, said that the lists would be submitted to senior ministry authorities before final submission for endorsement by higher government officials.

The sources added that those to be released under the Amiri pardon would include prisoners who have already spent half their jail terms on criminal charges and quarter of their jail terms on charges of misdemeanour.

## Education Ministry protects teachers

EDUCATION Minister Anwar Al Nouri has endorsed decision revising a clause under the current code on private education, whereby applicants for licences to set up private schools will have to submit a financial guarantee from a local bank.

Under the revised clause, schools will be obliged to submit a financial guarantee under three categories. First if the proposed school should contain from 1 to 500 students the guarantee value will be KD3000, from 501 to 1000 students the guarantee value shall be KD6000 and from 1001 students upwards the guarantee value shall be KD7000.

The second article stipulates that the school owner shall have to submit a written statement to the ministry entitling it to withdraw the guarantee, partly or wholly, with the right to take the legal, administrative and financial measures deemed necessary in the case of failure by the school owner to pay the salaries of his teaching staff and members of the school administration.

The article also entitled the ministry to decide to take necessary measures against failure by the school owner to make the necessary repairs or fill the existing shortages, in implementation of article seven of the decision. Additionally, the ministry has the right to revoke the licence, withdraw the financial guarantee and payment of all financial dues to students or school staff.

The decision also provided for stipulating the tuition fees applicable to foreign schools implementing the American education system, in line with the schools where the system is based on the British educational system.



# ARAB TIMES

## Thought for today

EAT to live, and do not live to eat—Benjamin Franklin, US statesman (1706-1790).

## SLA act as Israeli proxies

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon, (Reuters): The 2,500 Christian, Muslim and Druze fighters of the South Lebanon Army are Lebanese, but the welcome sign at the headquarters of the militia is in Hebrew.

Officially, Israel keeps up a pretence of independence for the SLA, portraying it as a local self-defence force that shares Israeli interest in halting Palestinian and Lebanese Shiite Muslim attacks.

But from training, to equipment and salaries Israel's support for the SLA is so all-encompassing that it is certain to keep soldiers of the Jewish state in Lebanon for the indefinite future.

"The day we will be facing only Lebanese opponents, we will be able to do without IDF (Israel Defence Force) support," SLA commander General Antoine Lahad told reporters on a recent visit.

Israel, which established the SLA in 1985 to protect its northern border, will continue to back its own militia in a country ruled by rival warlords enmeshed in ever-shifting foreign alliances.

Unusually for a Lebanese militia, the SLA crosses religious divides. It is roughly half-Christian and one-third Shiite, with the remainder Druze and Sunni Muslims. Most officers are Christian.

But the greening over the entrance of the SLA base in the town of Marjayoun, "Welcome to IDF and SLA headquarters in the security zone," is in Hebrew. The Arabic-speaking SLA officers glance towards Israeli escorts for approval before answering reporters' questions.

"Look, we never hid that we set it up. It's our area," an Israeli officer said when pressed about SLA independence. "There is not a militia or armed group in Lebanon that is on its own."

Israeli strings are most obvious in paying the bills. On top of \$2.7 million annually in militia salaries, the Jewish state even provides a grant to buy food for the SLA because the Lebanese did not like the supplies Israel initially provided.

The equipment is also Israeli, often weapons too antiquated for Israeli forces or trophies of their past conflicts with Arab armies such as Soviet-made T-55 tanks and 130mm artillery.

Training is provided inside the security zone at locations such as Majidiye, where Israelis teach tank warfare. Some SLA soldiers are sent to Israel for training.

Control of the 850 sq km (328 sq mile) security zone is maintained through armoured patrols and fortified observation posts that draw on Israel's experience in border defence.

The 2,500 troops of the SLA are backed by an undisclosed but limited number of Israeli. Foreign military attaches estimate the Israeli presence in the zone at less than 800 men.

Officials give few details of the Israeli role in the four-to-12-km-wide (three-to-eight-mile) strip, but they run their own patrols, maintain their own outposts and keep a close watch over their SLA allies.

Israeli officials say the SLA is free to retaliate for attacks but consults Israel before initiating action. Since some SLA positions adjoin Syrian lines, the leash is tightly held.

Israel also runs a civil administration, the same title used in its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Nearly \$4 million a year helps maintain the primitive infrastructure of a war-battered region that is devoid even of telephones.

Israel denies any interest in permanent control but there is no question of it withdrawing in the foreseeable future.

By the Israeli measure of success—ensuring Palestinian commandos do not penetrate their border—the arrangement has worked.

## Soviets allow Hebrew teaching

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (Reuters): Members of a Soviet Jewish group who once had to work in secret, facing prison for teaching Hebrew, say they are now operating openly with the blessing of Soviet authorities.

Teachers in the Machanaim group who immigrated to Israel say they study at a leading Occupied Jerusalem rabbinical college, then return to the Soviet Union to train leaders for a Jewish community they say has only 15 rabbis for an estimated two million people.

Machanaim's Pinhas Polonsky told Reuters that a few years ago Moscow police threatened him with imprisonment for giving Hebrew lessons.

Now an Israeli citizen, Polonsky returned to his old home in the Soviet Union recently to find President Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms have unleashed a religious revival in which Jews are thirsting for knowledge of their roots and rituals.

Walking through central Moscow, his skullcap and fringed ritual vest quickly drew a crowd of Jews eager for information on religion, Zionism and Israel, he told Reuters.

"One man came up to me and whispered, 'are you from over there (Israel)?' " he said.

"I said yes and he asked a question, my answer brought another question and when he heard I wasn't whispering he started to speak aloud. In five minutes there was a crowd of 15 people round us in the middle of the street asking for information," he said.

Leading Israeli rabbis met Soviet officials in Moscow last May and obtained permission to train Soviet Jews as teachers, preachers and community leaders. Jerusalem's Tzahal Institute started preparing Machanaim activists for the job in November.

The Machanaim graduates will serve in the Soviet Union as visiting teachers, while the 15 home-grown Soviet rabbis will study in Jerusalem during the summer.

The institute and Machanaim kept the project secret during its initial stages but plan to make a public appeal for support at a dinner in New York on January 25 to be attended by Soviet Jewish emigre Nathan Sharansky.

Polonsky, one of six Machanaim activists to have travelled back to the Soviet Union on lecture tours, found dramatic changes under Gorbachev.

"These days it's easier for an Israeli to get a visa to visit Moscow than one to visit New York," he said.

Polonsky says he spoke to full houses in synagogues, schools, the state-run Institute of Manology and, ironically, the Institute for Scientific Atheism.

Moscow severed diplomatic ties with Israel over the 1967 Middle East war but recently exchanged consular delegations and diplomats say cultural links are now stronger than before the split.

Science Minister Ezer Weizman met Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow last week and said the Kremlin offered to raise relations to the level of charge d'affaires.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1520 — King Christian II of Denmark and Norway defeats Swedes at Lake Asunden and subsequently conquers Sweden.
- 1701 — Brandenburg's Frederick III is crowned Frederick I, King of Prussia.
- 1913 — Greek and Turkish naval forces battle off Tenedos isle.
- 1915 — Japan issues secret ultimatum to China regarding rights in Shantung and Manchuria.
- 1918 — Russian constituent assembly opens in Petrograd.
- 1952 — Anti-British riots break out in Egypt.
- 1963 — Government of Charles de Gaulle in France insists that Britain be barred from European Common Market.
- 1968 — United States and Soviet Union agree on draft treaty to control nuclear weapons.
- 1973 — United States and North Vietnam announce that negotiators will meet to complete text of peace pact.
- 1976 — France expels at least 40 Soviet officials on grounds they have worked as spies.
- 1986 — Fierce fighting in South Yemen's capital city of Aden interrupts evacuation of foreigners.
- 1987 — Media representatives from 34 nations, meeting in London, call for concerted action against censorship, including "hot line" for journal under threat.
- 1988 — Loyalist troops in Argentina launch artillery and infantry assault on northeastern army compound held by renegade officer.
- 1989 — Thousands of Czechoslovaks converse on Prague's central Wenceslas Square chanting "freedom," "truth," and "human rights" on fourth consecutive day of public dissent.



Militants from the Azeri Popular Front waving the flag of the once independent Azerbaijan Republic. (Reuters wirephoto).

## Armenians, Azerbaijanis clash in Baku

### Soviet south belligerence rekindled

MOSCOW, (Reuters): "There were too many murders for records to be kept, and too many to be forgotten by these merciless enemies," an eyewitness wrote of fighting between Armenians and Azerbaijanis in the Caspian Sea port of Baku.

At least 34 people died in two nights of burning, looting and killing in Azerbaijan's capital last weekend but the eyewitness account is of events 85 years ago, when thousands died in a two-week orgy of violence amid blazing oil fields.

History is repeating itself in the Soviet south where an age-old bitterness born of racial and religious antagonism has erupted again into bloodshed between the mainly Christian Armenians and Muslim Azerbaijanis.

Time and time again—in 1818, 1905, 1918, 1988 and now 1990—the two sides have turned to violence to settle feuds. But their lasting enmity has defied settlement, even with the problem-solving skills of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Neither Armenia nor Azerbaijan, which sit side-by-side in the Caucasus mountains forming the Soviet Union's southern border with Turkey and Iran, has had a durable independent state in modern times.

In the 1800s both people's ancestral lands were divided between two powers.

Armenia, often called the world's oldest Christian nation, was split between Russia and Turkey, while Azerbaijan, Muslim since the seventh century, was divided between Russia and Iran.

But within the borders of first the Russian empire and then the Soviet Union, both peoples continued to claim several of the same territories as their own.

The best known is Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian enclave within Azerbaijan which is at the centre

of the current dispute.

While they have often lived together in the same communities, especially in the Azerbaijani capital Baku after it became an oil city of international importance at the turn of the century, they have zealously guarded their own traditions against encroachment by the other.

Against this background, violence has broken out repeatedly, with each side usually blaming the other for starting it.

"No human being can even classify or analyse the multitude of versions of the start of these massacres," wrote J. D. Henry, a turn-of-the-century journalist who wrote a book about the 1905 blood-bath in Baku.

"I unhesitatingly declare that no one can put forward a theory that will be universally accepted as true. Baku is the hot-bed of wild theories, misrepresentations and lies," he wrote in a passage modern journalists can appreciate.

Among the contributing factors he listed labour unrest and economic rivalry. Most of the workers in the oil fields were Azeris while among the rich oil company bosses there were many Armenians.

In 1918, in the vacuum left by the collapse of the Russian empire, both enjoyed brief independence and fought each other over Nagorno-Karabakh, an attractive upland farming area occupying about 1,700 square miles (4,400 square km) roughly midway between Baku and Yerevan, the Armenian capital.

The same piece of land, with its rich vineyards and villages perched on mountainsides, was the scene of another bloodletting between the two peoples from 1818 to 1820.

Moscow gave it to Azerbaijan in 1924 but the

dispute over sovereignty is again the issue now.

A two-year-old campaign by its majority Armenian population to join Armenia sparked clashes in which more than 150 people have been killed, according to official accounts. But as in the 1905 clashes, the officials have probably lost count.

Until last week the worst violence had been reported in Sumgait, an industrial centre north of Baku where 32 people, most of them Armenians, were killed in February 1988.

But the weekend violence in Baku, which broke out after an Azerbaijani nationalist rally degenerated into an anti-Armenian witchhunt, appeared to be much worse.

By Tuesday Armenians and Azerbaijanis armed with automatic guns, helicopters and armoured personnel carriers captured from Soviet security forces were fighting battles in the mountains around Nagorno-Karabakh.

The virtual civil war follows a year of intermittent fighting from Moscow. The latest violence exploded in December when the Kremlin tried to hand most of the reins of power back to Azerbaijan.

Neither side was satisfied and the weapons which both had been piling up for months were brought out. Kremlin envoys arriving in Stepanakert, capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, came under sniper fire on their way into town.

Azerbaijani militants, their nationalist fervour fanned by a new popular front movement, defied Moscow by tearing down border fences separating them from Azerbaijanis living in Iran.

The Kremlin has reacted by ordering a state of emergency in Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas, but not in Baku, perhaps out of fear of inflaming Azerbaijani nationalism even more.

## Eastern bloc to overhaul legal system

OTTAWA, (UPI): Western legal experts praise the shift to democracy in Eastern Europe but warn the change may be meaningless unless it is accompanied by legislative and judicial reforms guaranteeing human rights.

"Guaranteeing individual liberties would be a sign that the new administrators are serious about reform," said Vasilav Pechota, an expert on the laws in Eastern European countries at the Columbia University Law School in New York. He once was legal adviser to Czech leader Alexander Dubcek.

Pechota said legislative changes would likely happen very quickly, but added "the laws and promises must have real meaning."

The process of reforming laws and legal processes to reflect a more human face will be more difficult for some countries than others, Pechota said.

Poland and Czechoslovakia have a rich democratic tradition and had highly developed legal systems before becoming Socialist republics. But he believes that Romania and Bulgaria, despite their dictatorships, will also adjust their legal systems if they proceed toward democracy.

Pechota expects that, in the next six to eight months, a number of countries will enact new constitutions or bills of rights guaranteeing freedom of speech, assembly and worship. He also thinks that Poland and Czechoslovakia likely will be first to join the Council of Europe's European Convention on Human Rights.

Helena Cook, a London-based human rights lawyer and adviser to Amnesty International, said legal reforms would be "an important symbolic step

but actual ratification of any instrument is not worth the paper it's written on unless it's accompanied by structural changes to the law and judicial system."

Other legal experts contacted by United Press International suggested legal reforms should include an independent judiciary, with judges separate from prosecutors and courts free of the administration. In Eastern Europe, judges were appointed by the Communist Party and the verdicts and sentences they rendered reflected the wishes of the party leaders.

Already, constitutional courts established in Poland and Hungary have been empowered to decide whether new laws are constitutional or to reverse administrative decisions that violate fundamental rights of the individual.

According to Amnesty International researchers, some of the most dramatic legal reforms in Eastern Europe include:

— Poland: people no longer are arrested for organizing demonstrations or imprisoned for producing underground literature. The government is considering a five-year moratorium on the death penalty.

— Czechoslovakia: the government has restored freedom to worship and assemble to practise religious beliefs. Czechoslovaks also are fined rather than imprisoned for attempting to leave the country illegally.

— East Germany: there are plans to scrap sections of criminal code dealing with treasonable activity used to punish those who criticized the government or

wanted to leave the country. Reforms also will likely make political trials open to the public.

— Romania: restrictions on freedom of expression and movement have been eased. Laws restricting the use of typewriters, copying machines and reproduction materials have been abolished, along with espionage laws prohibiting contact with foreigners. Abortions made legal.

— Soviet Union: laws restricting freedom of expression were abolished in July 1989, a former Bucharest attorney, said the justice system in his homeland will be reformed if the communists are stripped of power.

As in the Soviet Union, Romanian judges appointed by the Communist Party "were obliged to ask for the assistance of the party" in rendering verdicts, Murgescu said.

He recalled a case in which he defended a baker accused of stealing flour. "There was no evidence on which to condemn him," said Murgescu, adding the judge first asked the opinion of the party before acquitting the accused. It was one of the few cases Murgescu successfully defended.

Paul Stephan, a law professor at the University of Virginia, observed that the policy of zero acquittal, common in the Soviet Union but also evident in other East bloc countries, has undermined the judiciary.

Marjory Farquharson, spokesperson for Amnesty International in London, said it was a major signal to the East bloc when the Soviet Union announced it would bring its laws in line with international human rights standards.

## Romania faces an uphill task to rebuild

BUCHAREST, (Reuters): Romania's future is like a giant and complicated jigsaw puzzle with everyone scrambling to put the pieces in place.

Less than a month after a bloody revolution ousted communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, new leaders face mounting problems as they try to build democracy and reshape a shattered economy.

"They face a hell of a job to start democracy. People are asking, what is democracy? How does it work?" a senior Western diplomat said.

"The economy is very bad," he added. "They are practically starting from scratch again and are hoping to get through the winter without difficulties."

The Soviet Union and Western countries have offered assistance and co-operation, but hard times still lie ahead. Romanian and Western analysts warn that the country faces a bad bout of inflation as a "cold wind of the market place," blows through the economy.

Many factories are reported at a standstill with workers' pay due—raising the prospect of the government printing money to cover costs.

Prime Minister Petre Roman described the economy at the weekend as disaster, and there is a serious energy crisis.

Romanians were badly shaken by a noisy demonstration in central Bucharest last Friday during which the ruling National Salvation Front caved in to mob rule, outlawing the Communist Party and promising a referendum on capital punishment which it abolished on January 1.

Interim President Ion Iliescu announced only 24 hours later that the death penalty and the future of the party would be put to a plebiscite on January 28.

The abrupt about-face reinforced fears that the front was failing to come to grips with the country's problems.

The date for the country's first free elections in 43 years is also in doubt. The Front pledged them for April, but they could be put off until September at the request of fledgling political parties seeking more time to organise.

Six political parties have been registered, ranging from the National Peasants' Party founded in 1868 and the Liberal Party formed 20 years earlier, to a modern ecologist party. At least three more are being processed.

The highest authority is now the 151-member council of the Front, an interim Parliament with members around the

country.

Executive power appears to lie with the Front's 11-man executive headed by Iliescu, with day-to-day affairs in the hands of Prime Minister Roman's government. Diplomats said the precise division of responsibility between the executive and government was unclear.

Local branches of the Front have sprung up to replace the old communist apparatus and the Front Council has ordered the establishment of local government bodies.

"There is some discouraging news," one Western diplomat said. "The real revolutionaries do not trust the local head of the Front and the old guard appear to be taking up key positions in some areas."

"Once a person is in a position of authority, he is difficult to dislodge."

A senior Western ambassador said Front leaders in Bucharest seemed to be settling down.

Vice-President Dumitru Mazilu appears to have alienated critics by a libel suit against a leading newspaper which linked him with Ceausescu's feared Securitate secret police.

## Letters to the editor

### Query to a reader

SIR: This letter refers to the letter that appeared in the Arab Times dated 9th January, 1990 under the heading 'Unjust Acts' written by 'An ardent reader'.

The writer supported Mr John strongly and vehemently and categorised him as 'An Ardent and Sincere Social Worker'. In this issue, let me seek clarifications on the following points:

(a) What is the contribution of this individual in the socio-cultural field of the Expatriate Indian Community here?

(b) The untold and unresolved problems of common man regarding travel, customs, repatriations, etc. exist from a long time. Has he or his any so-called 'Congress Organisations' (OICC, KICC, etc.) ever taken up a move or step to find a solution for any such problems to their 'God Fathers' who were in power in India for the last 40 years?

(c) Has he or his group ever tried to do anything to promote the traditional cultural relationship between Indian and the second mother-land i.e. Kuwait?

(d) Is it justifiable for a social worker to make a press release against the interest of the common man in the issue like 'Indian Vegetable Price' in the Abassiya Area?

(e) Donations of Rs. 100/- or Rs. 200/- to a poor man's son or daughter is mere 'Nothing' according to John's arithmetic conversions. The fact is that such donations are made in a country where half of the populations' average income is less than that amount in a month.

(f) Conducting 'Volley Ball Toss' and a grand public reception to one's own visiting family member in the Embassy Hall can be treated as great deeds of social ventures?

The 'Ardent Reader' should consider the above points before jumping to any conclusion.

Roy J. Roy  
Jeeb Al Shuyookh.

### Suspicious silence

SIR: This refers to various letters that appeared in the Arab Times criticising the working style of the so-called organisation, 'UMO'. I presume, it is the hobby of certain Malay (sic) to form organisations with very few members and accuse each other of wrongdoing in the public. Whether the accusations are true or not, they failed to realise how others are mocking at them. The vast majority of Malaysians are also watching the fun as none of these organisations represent them.

Even though the office bearers of UMO have made lengthy claims in the past, they've become insensitive to the present criticism. Why? We know from the beginning it was a paper tiger, its officials, trying to gain undue fame and publicity by every means. I sincerely hope someone responsible in the UMO will have the courage to come out of its suspicious silence rather than creating fictitious supporters and show something credible to prove its claims.

A.N. Sathiyadas  
Safat

### Pickpocketing

SIR: Last Friday, 12th January, 1990 while I was getting on a bus at the Central Bus Depot at Murugah my purse was picked by someone. My Civil ID, KD-17,000 and US\$25.00 were stolen.

Subsequently I came to learn that more than 50 (fifty) cases of pocket picking were performed by the miscreants that day alone at the place. In most cases the purse was thrown away after taking out the money from it and the KTC collected some of the purses from the bus depot.

We request the Police Department to keep an eye so that these sort of criminals can be caught and punished. These people are taking advantage from the places where there are possibilities of rusk like Bus Depot, Souk al-Watia where many people gather on Sunday.

The criminals can also be caught from the finger prints on the purse and so the purses should be deposited with the police who cover gets any purse abandoned anywhere.

We hope that the law enforcing authorities will take immediate action in this regard.

I also request members of the public who had been pick-pocketed to report to the police, whatever small amount is stolen, so that the police may have an idea of the crime and go ahead to stop the crime.

Mohammed Chowdhury E.  
Safat

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

## Quote me

"I wasn't concentrating on a few points, but it was a good practice and I played better than you in the first match. It was fun hitting with Boris, we had a good time and some good rallies and both enjoyed it very much. But it was a little bit difficult today. Perhaps last night I was trying a little bit harder, trying to play well and not make too many mistakes. It was not too far coming back (to the women's game)." Graf after beating Erika de Lone.

"The recent racist move of the British government shows the rash reaction of the colonialists towards the revival of Islamic identity and teachings, especially after the binding decree of the late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeini against Salman Rushdie." — Iran quoting an Iranian minister who warned Britain over deportation of Iranian students.

"While there have been very positive aspects to our marriage, there were some issues which could not be resolved even after working on them for a period of time." — Tom Cruise and his wife Mimi Rogers in a divorce statement.

"By referring to Hrawi as a president you don't recognise my cabinet which is the legal one. By not recognising me you are not recognising the laws I represent. This has to stop or be dealt with according to the law. You can call Hrawi anything but a president." — Aoun to reporters after beating news on Hrawi.

"Ceausescu understood well before the Soviets that only the support, money and technology of the West could save the communist nations from crumbling. He therefore was the first to simulate reform, beginning in 1972. What Ceausescu did in 1972, (Soviet President Mikhail) Gorbachev is doing now." — Former Romanian spy chief.







# UN to stop EEC meals for tots

AMMAN, Jan 17. (Reuters): Palestinian refugees in Jordan are protesting about a UN decision to stop distributing extra meals from the European Economic Community to almost 10,000 youngsters.

They say the move is "void of reason and wisdom" and with Jordan suffering an economic recession will have "very grave consequences (for) the health standards of the beneficiaries."

Some 9,500 Palestinian children aged three to five get a sandwich a day and a hot meal a week from Unrwa, the UN relief and works agency.

The European Economic Community don-

ates the food, worth two million dollars a year. Unrwa spends \$700,000 to prepare and distribute it. The food and money will still be used to aid Palestinians, but not necessarily in Jordan.

Ele Saaf, Unrwa director in Jordan, told a news conference on Wednesday: "Criticism from the refugees was expected."

A survey by Unrwa and the World Health Organisation two years ago found no malnutrition in Jordan or among the 900,000 resident Palestinian refugees, including up to 250,000 living in camps, he said.

The meals-for-toddlers approach will be phased out this year and replaced with a target

programme providing food in needy cases spotted by medical workers.

A committee representing refugees has written to Unrwa's Vienna-based commissioner-general Giorgio Giacomelli complaining about the decision.

Abdel Aziz Sager, secretary of the committee, told Reuters: "It seems to me that all this is pressures being practised on us for political ends."

He did not elaborate. Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, Speaker of the Palestine National Council, said in a statement Unrwa's move could be a first step towards ending services to Palestinian refugees.

# Soviets giving arms to Arabs

LOS ANGELES, Jan 17. (Reuters): The spirit of glasnost has not stopped the Soviet Union supplying the latest types of MIG fighters and other weapons to Arab countries such as Iraq, Syria and Libya, Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said yesterday.

"We estimate Arab countries are spending \$40 billion a year on arms supplies," Rabin said. "The arms race goes on without change."

Rabin, who will have talks with US Secretary of State James Baker, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and other US officials in Washington during the next two days, did not say whether he would ask for more US arms supplies.

But Rabin, who has refused to reveal his agenda for his Washington talks, told a luncheon given by a civic group that Israel believes the Soviet Union and also the United States are showing less and less tendency to try to impose their will on the Middle East by force.

"The Soviet Union knows Syria alone is not a military match for Israel and it does not want to use its force to intervene in the conflicts," Rabin said. "The United States is more careful about taking initiatives it is not sure will bring results."

Efforts to end conflicts between Israel and Arab countries must be carried on the shoulders of the parties to the conflicts, he said.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Elmar Abdel Maged is visiting Washington this week and Israeli officials have said they would welcome a meeting between the two ministers on stalled Middle East peace talks.

Rabin called for patience in trying to solve Middle East conflicts, such as the Israeli-Palestinian problem.

"Only then will the peace process be expanded beyond the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel and we will see the beginnings of peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians," he said.

Israel has asked for assurances the PLO will not provide members of a Palestinian negotiating team and that preparatory talks will be limited to procedures for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We say to the Palestinians in the territories let us shift from confrontation to negotiation," Rabin said.

# Egypt to free prisoners held in emergency

CAIRO, Jan 17. (Reuters): Egypt is to free all prisoners held under emergency regulations, Interior Minister Abdel-Hafiz Mousa was quoted today as saying.

"I have issued strict orders for the release of any detainee who carried a release order by the courts," Mousa told the weekly Akher Saa magazine.

Former hardline Interior Minister Zaki Badr replaced by Mousa last Friday ordered his emergency law powers to detain suspects without charge for a month after they had been released by court order and reversed the detention orders as they lapsed.

Mousa told Akher Saa he had ordered a full review of the cases of thousands of people held on Badr's orders.

In the first reported case of releases, three taxi drivers held for over-charging clients were freed, a local newspaper said today.

Emergency law has been in force in Egypt since the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in October 1981 by Muslim zealots. Badr, a fierce opponent of Islamic fundamentalism, was sacked by President Hosni Mubarak after nearly four years in office following growing demands for his removal.

His critics were incensed at his use of emergency powers when national security was apparently not at risk and at his intemperate remarks such as calling Muslim dissidents dogs and pigs.



The wife and child of Palestinian Ahmad Badran, sit in the rubble of their home destroyed under Israeli order for being illegally constructed. (Reuters wirephoto)

# Iran frees Iraqi PoWs

BAGHDAD, Jan 17. (UPI): A Red Cross chartered plane arrived in the Iraqi capital Baghdad today, carrying 50 disabled and sick Iraqi prisoners of war released by Iran, the Gulf News Agency reported.

The agency, monitored in Kuwait, said the plane flew directly from the Iranian capital Tehran to Baghdad carrying the prisoners, who were handed to Iraqi authorities for a medical check-up by representatives of the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross.

Although Iran and Iraq suspended fighting in the 8-year-long Gulf war in Aug 1988, under the terms of a UN-brokered ceasefire, some 100,000 prisoners — 70,000 Iraqis and 30,000 Iranians — are still in camps pending the signing of a comprehensive peace settlement.

An Iraqi Foreign Ministry official said yesterday that Iraq would match the Iranian step and release 50 Iranian prisoners.

The Foreign Ministry official said the Iranian PoWs would probably be released on Thursday, and they would be handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross for repatriation. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein earlier this month proposed an immediate exchange of PoWs with Iran, particularly those who were disabled or wounded, as part of a peace initiative that also calls for direct talks between Iranian and Iraqi leaders in both Baghdad and Tehran.

Iran has said it would not accept the release of Egyptian prisoners of war if the Cairo government officially requests so.

# Aoun closes Beirut newspaper for week

## Ad-Diyar defies ban

BEIRUT, Jan 17. (Reuters): Defiant General Michel Aoun, switching to the attack in his struggle for power, closed a newspaper for a week today, for identifying his rival, Elias Hrawi, as President of Lebanon.

The Christian general ordered Ad-Diyar, based in the Christian enclave controlled by his troops, to halt publication while its editor-in-chief and a senior editor were questioned.

"I will abide by the law and seven days are enough to think about the matter," Editor-in-Chief Charles Ayoub told Reuters. "Maybe they can convince me to change or maybe I can convince them."

Aoun's order accused the independent daily of endangering Lebanon's safety and violating national sovereignty by identifying Hrawi as head of state.

Aoun, who claims he heads the legitimate government and holds that Hrawi was illegally elected by Christian and Muslim parliamentarians in November, ordered the media yesterday to stop identifying Hrawi as President and Selim Hoss as his Prime Minister.

"He uses the law as an excuse and he is the first one to disobey it," Hoss told editors. "He praises freedom and is the first to say it ... this man now forms a danger to the nation and the people."

The Hrawi government, which has wide international recognition, launched a bureaucratic and economic war in December to smash Aoun's hold on Christian East Beirut and to reunite Lebanon under its authority.

Diplomatic sources said Aoun had switched tactics and was no longer just trying to react to the measures taken against him by Hrawi but had been forced on the offensive even in the enclave.

"With all our respect, we are not abiding by the decision," said a front-page editorial in today's Ad-Diyar, the sole East Beirut newspaper to break the ban.

"We have no militia, no troops, no foreign protection ... we are only defending our small house, our pen is our only weapon," it added.

Lebanon has generally had the freest press in the Middle East despite more than 14 years of civil war.

Aoun's troops set up new checkpoints and increased patrols in East Beirut today. It was unclear if the measures were related to the row over the media or part of a crackdown on crime.

# Turkey protects dam

## Measures against Kurdish attacks

ANKARA, Jan 17. (Reuters): Turkey has enforced strict security at dams on the Euphrates river to deter attacks by separatist Kurdish rebels who see them as a major threat to their struggle.

"General and special measures have been taken to protect this project against terrorist action," Hayri Kozakcioglu, regional governor in southeast Turkey, told Reuters.

Three dams on the Euphrates, which flows into Syria and Iraq, form the core of the \$11-billion southeast Anatolian project (GAP) to pump fresh life into remote rebel-hit areas suffering from high unemployment and economic problems.

"The GAP project is not a single economic and social development. It is in fact a battle to conquer the east," Kozakcioglu quoted the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) as saying.

More than 2,000 people, including civilians and Turkish soldiers, have been killed since 1984 when the PKK launched its violent campaign in border areas near Iran, Iraq and Syria.

"GAP is a project that will make an important contribution not only to the regional economy but also to the national economy and will deal a big blow to terrorist activities," Kozakcioglu said in written answers to questions.

# Cairo's help to turn its deserts green

CAIRO, Jan 17. (UPI): Libya has proposed financing colonies of millions of Egyptian peasant farmers in the southern deserts, it was learned as further concern strained ties with Cairo, Libyan and Egyptian officials said yesterday.

The Libyan proposal also foresees joint multi-million dollar oil refining projects with Cairo, the officials added.

The proposal follows talks between Libyan leader Col Muammar Khaddafi and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak late last year, as part of ongoing efforts to improve ties between the two neighbours.

Mohammad Lotfi Farhad, Libya's planning minister who is currently on a visit to Cairo, told the Egyptian semi-official daily Al-Ahram that his country was willing to settle millions of Egyptian farmers — the peasant farmers who form 60 per cent of Egypt's population — in Libya's southern deserts.

Farhad said the scheme involved exploiting Libya's billion-dollar man-made "great artificial river project," to bring water from Sebha, in southern Libya, to the Libyan capital Tripoli.

Khaddafi began the scheme in the late 1980s as part of a plan to turn Libya "green." But the project has yet to be completed.

Farhad said Egyptian farmers could exploit the subterranean waters of lakes in Libya's southern Uweinat region to make the plan work. Libya has no perennial rivers, and most water is obtained from shallow wells that tap vast underground water-bearing rock layers.

The Libyan minister said the aim of the joint project with Egypt was to "cultivate a minimum strategic supply of basic food commodities, particularly wheat," and to make use of the relative advantages each country had at its disposal.

Egyptian government sources said the plan would have to be examined and had "potential."

# 16 killed in Istanbul fire

ANKARA, Jan 17. (Reuters): The number of victims of an office block blaze in Istanbul hit 16 today after eight more bodies were discovered in the charred rooms, the state-run radio reported.

It said most of those killed in yesterday's fire which gutted two floors of a five-storey office building in central Istanbul were workers from ready-made clothing workshops.

fighters in Afghanistan have struck deals with Najib's government, but they say the majority are still fighting.

Azim Nasser-Zia, spokesman for the national Islamic Front of Afghanistan, one of the seven Pakistan-based mujahedeen factions, scoffed at Saeed's claim.

"Maybe 70 per cent of the mujahedeen have taken Najib's arms and money ... but only to use it against him," he said.

Kahol officials claim that 168 "armed opposition groups" have joined Najib's national reconciliation process and that an additional 351 groups have signed ceasefire agreements.

# Peres-Mubarak talks next week

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 17. (Reuters): Israel, stung by a key senator's proposal to cut US aid, announced new diplomatic moves today to revive Middle East peace efforts after weeks of stalling.

Government officials said Vice-Premier Shimon Peres, excluded from Israeli diplomacy for several months because he was considered too dovish, would meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo next week to try to arrange Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

The meeting, scheduled for Jan 24, will be the first top-level encounter between Israeli and Egyptian officials since Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin held talks with Mubarak in Cairo in September.

Peres spokesman Avi Gil said the Middle East peace process will be at the top of the agenda. He would not elaborate, saying only "when you're in Egypt, you don't just talk about the pyramids."

Gil said Peres, finance minister and leader of the center-left Labour party, had co-ordinated the visit with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens of the right-wing Likud Bloc.

In a related development, Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu quoted US Secretary of State James Baker as saying a trilateral meeting between Baker and the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel could take place in Washington by the end of February.

The Israeli officials reacted with apprehension to a proposal from Republican senate minority leader Robert Dole to cut aid to Israel and four other countries by five per cent and divert the funds to help new democracies in Eastern Europe.

Israel, with a population of only 4.3 million, is the world's biggest recipient of US aid, currently running at \$3 billion a year. It would stand to lose \$150 million if Dole's proposal passed.

Diplomats said the proposal came at a time when the Bush administration was impatient with Israeli baggaging over Secretary of State James Baker's plan for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Hardline Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has demanded US guarantees that the PLO will not be involved, directly or indirectly, in the peace process and that talks will be limited to procedures for elections in the occupied territories.

# Arafat slams Shamir's claim

BAGHDAD, Jan 17. (Agencies): Yasser Arafat said today Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's statement that Israel must retain the West Bank and Gaza Strip to settle Jews from the Soviet Union was "racist and expansionist."

The PLO chairman said Shamir's claim on the status of the occupied territories poses a threat to Palestinians, Arabs and the international community.

"We (the Palestinians) are going on with our resistance to the Israeli occupation ... but it is a challenge to all Arabs which we should confront," Arafat said.

Shamir declared on Monday that Israel needs to retain the West Bank and Gaza, the focal points of the Middle East conflict, to settle an influx of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union.

"For a large immigration we need the land of Israel, a great and strong Israel," Shamir told the Likud. "We will need a lot of place to absorb everybody."

The term "land of Israel" is used by members of the right-wing Likud bloc in references to Israel and the occupied territories, which were captured from Jordan and Egypt by Israel in 1967.

Arafat bitterly criticised what he described as "Arab impotence to stand up to Israeli arrogance."

"The Arab nation should confront with all determination and vigour this (Israeli position) ... otherwise it only has itself to blame," Arafat

said in an interview at his residence in Baghdad.

"God be witness that I have warned them," Arafat said the statement made by Shamir on his intention to annex the West Bank and Gaza clearly demonstrates Israel's ambitions and Shamir's unwillingness to accept a peace settlement.

"This reveals the true, ugly face of Israel which wants to swallow more land and reject all peace efforts," Arafat added, calling Shamir's statement "impudent, racist and expansionist."

Referring to Israel's attempt to increase Jewish immigration and its plans to accommodate the new settlers in the West Bank, Arafat said the threat would mostly be felt by other Arabs more than the Palestinians themselves.

"It will make no difference for me whether I struggle against three million Israelis or four ... but Arabs should now feel the real threat of establishing greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates," he said.

Arafat claimed Shamir's latest statement and his rejection of a PLO role in peace talks reflect a crisis in Israeli policy toward peace efforts in the Middle East.

"Shamir is swimming against the tide of history."

The US State Department said yesterday it asked Israel to explain Shamir's reported comment that the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip should be used to settle Jews from the Soviet Union.

# Anti-US strike in held areas

## Israeli troops kill Palestinian boy

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 17. (AP): A 19-year-old Palestinian died today of gunshot wounds from an earlier clash with Israeli troops, and Palestinians staged a general strike to protest what they perceive as anti-Arab US policies.

Yousef Hatem Shusha of the West Bank village of Husan near Bethlehem died at Hadassah hospital in Jerusalem after being shot in the head and back during a clash last night, Arab reports said.

An army official confirmed the death and said the circumstances were under investigation. The death brought to 648 the number of Palestinians killed by Israelis during the 25-month

Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinian vigilants have killed 170 fellow Arabs suspected of co-operating with Israel. Forty-three Israelis have died, as well.

Also today, police commissioner David Krauss ordered a policeman removed from his post for unnecessary use of force during a peace rally in Jerusalem last month, police spokesman Uzi Sandori said.

Krauss made the decision after viewing film of police dispersing a demonstrators who formed a "human chain" around Jerusalem's old city on Dec 30. Israel radio said the film

showed the policeman violently beating peace activists with a billy club.

More than 50 people were injured in the melee. The European Economic Community and peace activists criticised police for using "unjustified" violence during the demonstration.

At the time, police said officers took action only after outlawed PLO flags were waved and stones hurled at police.

Throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, stores were shut and transportation came to a halt as Palestinians followed a strike call by the PLO-backed unified national leadership of the uprising.

In a speech in Los Angeles, Rabin said: "The Soviet Union has not changed its policy of supplying arms to three radical Arab countries — Iraq, Syria and Libya."

In a speech in Los Angeles, Rabin said: "The Soviet Union has not changed its policy of supplying arms to three radical Arab countries — Iraq, Syria and Libya."

# MIDEAST BRIEFS

**Attack isolated incident:** Saudi Arabia's deputy interior minister was quoted on Wednesday as saying a bomb attack on the car of a Saudi diplomat in Ankara was an isolated incident. (Reuters)

**Rebels repulse offensive:** Rebels in northern Ethiopia said on Wednesday that they had repulsed a two-pronged government offensive in Wollo province.

The clandestine radio of the Rebel Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) said rebel forces had blocked an army attempt to break through the frontlines at Hayk and Kutaber 35 km (20 miles) north of the provincial capital Dessie last Sunday. (Reuters)

**Call for Cyprus talks regretted:** Turkey said Wednesday it regretted that the United Nations secretary-general had called for Cyprus

**Blue Nile water flow**  
**Sudan warns Ethiopia**

CAIRO, Jan 17. (UPI): Khartoum expressed concern yesterday about possible Ethiopian plans to dam the Blue Nile, and restrict the flow of irrigation water to Sudan and Egypt, Sudanese government officials said.

The Sudanese statement followed similar fears expressed in Syria this week, about Turkish plans to divert the Euphrates river, which feeds irrigation canals in Syria and Cairo, to fill the massive Ataturk dam.

reunification talks without consulting and obtaining the consent of the Turkish Cypriots.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungur told reporters at his weekly briefing "it was a great mistake to overlook the views of the Turkish side and the real conditions of Cyprus." (AP)

**Lanka embassy in Iran:** Sri Lanka will establish diplomatic ties with and open an embassy in Tehran, the Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday.

**Egyptian village sealed off:** Hundreds of armed security police sealed off a village in this tiny Nile Delta town on Tuesday when some 5,000 Jews flocked to the shrine of a revered 19th century religious figure.

Rabbi Ya'Aqoub (Jacob) Abu Hassera, a Moroccan Jew who died in Egypt while apparently on a pilgrimage to occupied Jerusalem, was buried around 1885 in the small village of Dammiouti, about 160 km (100 miles) northwest of Cairo. (Reuters)

**Premiers conclude meet:** Four premiers of the Arab Co-operation Council member states Wednesday conclude a two-day conference following a final meeting to be held behind closed doors.

Iraqi First Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan said in a statement to the Iraqi news agency last night that the premiers of Egypt, Jordan, Yemen Arab Republic, and himself have discussed all topics on the agenda during their session. (Kuwa)

**Communists welcome move:** The head of Jordan's banned Communist Party on Wednes-

# Rival Shiites fight but Iran says feud will end

BEIRUT, Jan 17. (Reuters): Rival Shiite militias fought with machine-guns and grenades in southern Lebanon today but an Iranian mediator predicted the bloody feud would be resolved.

Security sources said Iranian-backed Hezbollah and pro-Syrian Amal fighters exchanged machine-gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades in Arab-salim, Kfar Hata and Ain Qana villages in the Iqlim Al Tufah area, 40 km (25 miles) south of Beirut.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Ali Besharat was quoted today as expressing optimism about peace moves at a meeting with 16 Shiite clergymen at the Iranian embassy in Beirut.

"The future of the Shiites is brighter than it appears to be. Both factions have expressed their

views and, God willing, you will hear pleasing news," the cleric said Besharat told them in a statement they published today.

At least 80 people have been killed and 285 wounded since the latest battles erupted on Dec 23 between the fundamentalist Hezbollah and the more secular Amal.

Vying for leadership of Lebanon's 1.3 million Shiites, Amal and Hezbollah have fought on-and-off battles for the past two years.

Besharat, who arrived in Beirut on Jan 7, has so far failed to convince Hezbollah to withdraw from five villages it seized from Amal. The Syrian-backed group insists Hezbollah pulls out before it will discuss a truce.

# Kabul government claims tangible gains in national reconciliation

KABUL, Jan 17. (AP): President Najibullah's government claims to have made tangible gains in its three-year-old programme of national reconciliation even though it has not succeeded in ending the country's protracted civil war.

Government officials admit that fighting between their Soviet-armed troops and the US-backed Muslim commandos continues to claim heavy tolls in life and property.

But they also claim to be achieving success through a campaign of offering amnesty to commandos who surrender and cash for their weapons.

Najib, former head of the feared Khad secret police, launched his national reconciliation programme in January 1987 with the first of a series of short-lived ceasefires that have been routinely rejected by the mujahedeen.

"The last three years have been really difficult and full of problems because of the enemies of national reconciliation, but we have made a number of fruitful gains," government spokesman Naquih Saeed said.

He asserted that "70 per cent of armed opposition commanders have laid down their weapons and joined national recon-

ciliation."

In November, the United Nations official in charge of Afghan refugee aid provided some support for the position. Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan told reporters in New York that many of the mujahedeen commanders have de facto truces in areas under their control.

"In point of fact, a very large part of the country, which is rural, is controlled by the opposition, by the resistance," he said.

"Two-thirds of the country is gradually returning to normal."

Commando leaders based across the border in Pakistan admit that some of their

fighters in Afghanistan have struck deals with Najib's government, but they say the majority are still fighting.

Azim Nasser-Zia, spokesman for the national Islamic Front of Afghanistan, one of the seven Pakistan-based mujahedeen factions, scoffed at Saeed's claim.

"Maybe 70 per cent of the mujahedeen have taken Najib's arms and money ... but only to use it against him," he said.

Kahol officials claim that 168 "armed opposition groups" have joined Najib's national reconciliation process and that an additional 351 groups have signed ceasefire agreements.



# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## American oil output declines

WASHINGTON, Jan 17, (AP) — US domestic oil production in 1989 took the steepest yearly fall in history, and petroleum imports rose to a 10-year high, the industry said today.

The American Petroleum Institute, the trade association of the major oil companies, also said that while US oil consumption increased only slightly, imports rose to 46 per cent of total supply. That was the second-highest level on record.

The figures confirm a continued decline of the domestic oil industry and are expected to add to a debate in congress this year over whether exploration and production companies should get new tax breaks to stimulate drilling activity.

The Bush administration has argued that declining US oil production and increasing reliance on foreign producers is undermining national energy security.

In its year-end report, the Petroleum Institute said US crude oil production averaged 7.6 million barrels a day in 1989. That was the lowest in 26 years and a decline of 533,000 barrels per day, or 6.8 per cent, from the 1988 total.

## Minister fails to convince West Germany

BOHLE, Jan 17, (Reuters) — East German Economics Minister Christa Luft smiled for cameras and shook plenty of hands during her first official visit to West Germany, but she was not convincing many here of her communist-led government's will to reform.

Luft spent two days meeting Bonn officials and business leaders in a bid to improve trade and investment between the two countries. But some politicians and businessmen were sceptical.

"I have the impression you're still holding the reins too tightly," Josef Minshel, a West German businessman, said. "I am sure that Luft really wants to free East Germany's economy from the shackles of centralised planning."

They are annoyed by East Berlin's insistence on limiting foreign stakes in East German firms to 49 per cent, unless the investing company is small or bringing considerable technological know-how with it.

## KD deposits rates steady

KUWAIT, Jan 17, (Reuters) — Kuwaiti dinar interest rates were steady today, with activity in the fixed periods picking up after one bank borrowed large amounts of six-month and one-year deposits. Dealers said short-dated funds were well-bid due to tight liquidity in the past week. Overnight, tomorrow-next and spot rates all dealt at Tuesday's levels of 8-8 3/8 per cent.

## Strikes close Ford plants

LONDON, Jan 17, (AP) — Strikes by thousands of auto workers protesting 10.2 per cent pay rise offer have halted production at three of Ford's British plants, the company said today.

As talks resumed between union leaders and Ford Motor Co. Ltd., about 9,000 employees downed tools for 24 hours or more in indefinite strikes began Monday.

Ford said it responded by laying off more than another 10,500 employees because work couldn't continue.

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## Nazer to Asia to discuss downstream operations

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Jan 17, (AP) — Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister, Hisham Nazer, started a three-nation Asian tour today covering Indonesia, South Korea and Japan in quest of joint ventures in downstream operations, industry sources reported.

The tour falls within the new policy of the kingdom to diversify into foreign downstream ventures to guarantee an integrated industry and long-term outlets for its oil exports.

Saudi Arabia is the world's largest oil exporting nation. Its first move toward downstream operations was in 1988 in the United States where Saudi Aramco, the state-owned ruling oil company, now operates three refineries and distributes oil to 10,000 stations.

Nazer later affirmed that the kingdom was looking for similar stakes in Western Europe and Asia. Kuwait has already made its mark as a leading investor in foreign downstream operations around the world.

The sources, who spoke on condition they not be named, said that Nazer would be considering Saudi participation in oil refining and marketing operations in Japan within two to three years, when that Asian giant industrial nation has laid out its new rules for foreign ventures.

Japan energy officials were in the kingdom at the outset of the year for initial probing of the prospects available in their country.

Recent reports alluded to a Tokyo demand for a quid pro quo in the form of participation in Saudi exploitation of its oil fields, but that has been denied by Riyadh.

The sources said Nazer will also discuss participation in refining and marketing operations during his visits to Indonesia and South Korea.

Nazer told the Saudi newspaper Al

Riyadh earlier in the day that he himself was not going to sign any deals on his tour because it was the government policy to leave that to the producing and consuming companies.

He said his talks in the three Asian countries would "cover the oil supply of their countries in line with the method the kingdom uses in dealing with the market, which is direct sales to the consumer on the world market."

Nazer affirmed keenness of the king-

dom to maintain the flow of oil to consumers without severe fluctuation in prices which would be detrimental to both sides, he said.

"It is in interest of those consuming states to buy directly from the kingdom, a matter that eases the difficulties and expenses of the oil the consumer needs," he said. "It is the kingdom's policy to avert dealing short-term because that is harmful to the market in the long-term."

## Algeria to boost output

# Abu Dhabi oil firm to expand capacity

ABU DHABI, Jan 17, (Reuters) — Abu Dhabi Co for onshore oil operations (Adco), producer of sweet Murban crude oil, will expand the capacity of its Bah field and tanker loading terminal at Jebel Dhanna, Adco general manager Terry Adams said.

Oil industry sources in the Gulf last November said Abu Dhabi emirate would raise Bah field capacity to 250,000 barrels per day (bpd) from a current sustainable 40,000-50,000 bpd.

"There are immediate plans for major expansion at Jebel Dhanna and Bah field and there will be significant investment in all our other fields to upgrade and improve our facilities," Adams said in a speech on Monday. He gave no figures however.

The text of Adams' speech to company employees was made available to Reuters today.

Adco is 60 per cent owned by Abu Dhabi National Co.

(Adnoc) 9.5 per cent each by the Royal Dutch/Shell Group, British Petroleum Co Plc and Total Compagnie Francaise Des Petroles, with 4.75 per cent each held by Mobil and Exxon Corp, and two per cent by Parlex Corp.

Adco's five onshore oilfields have a combined output capacity of over one million bpd, but not on a sustainable basis, oil industry sources in the Gulf said.

Abu Dhabi plans to raise total output capacity at these five to over 1.5 million bpd in the next five years, the sources said. The Bah field was reopened last year after being mothballed for three years.

The emirate of Abu Dhabi — the biggest oil producer in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — plans to raise its total output capacity to over 2.5 million bpd by mid-1990s from the current unsustainable 1.8-1.9 million.

It is also pressing ahead with

development projects at its offshore fields.

Meanwhile, Algeria's state oil company Sonatrach intends to reopen a number of oil wells this year to enable the country to meet its new, higher Opec sales quota of 827,000 barrels per day (bpd) in the first half of 1990.

Sonatrach general manager Abdul Hak Bouhafs told the Opec news agency that Sonatrach's priorities this year would be to bring production of hydrocarbons to the desired level and "then sustain the rate."

In the short term, the capacity of producing fields would be increased and in the long term, reserves would be renewed so Algeria remained a producer for a long time to come, he said.

Algeria exported 75 million tonnes of oil equivalent last year, a net increase over 1988, Bouhafs said. Production was gradually raised to reach the country's then

quota of 770,000 bpd by the fourth quarter.

Gas exports in 1989 were close to 30 billion cubic metres, up 13 per cent on 1988.

Bouhafs said Sonatrach had set up a special directorate to negotiate exploration and production agreements.

"1990 will be the year of intensified negotiations and conclusion of joint-venture agreements with foreign partners," he told Opec.

On the marketing of gas, he said Sonatrach would diversify its gas sale outlets and open new markets to boost exports substantially by the end of the decade.

Asked how he saw the world oil market in 1990, Bouhafs said demand would grow in the United States and the Pacific, but Opec had to regulate production throughout the year and hold to its \$18 per barrel price minimum.

## North Sea oil output plunges

LONDON, Jan 17, (Reuters) — Britain's North Sea oil output plunged 21 per cent last year, squeezing government revenues and pushing the country's trade balance further into the red.

Stockbrokers James Capel said a spate of accidents forced the country's offshore oil production down to an average of 1.91 million barrels per day (bpd), against 2.42 million in 1988.

Oil is a key counterweight to Britain's big balance of payments deficit. The government last November estimated its total oil trade surplus for the year at £1 billion (\$1.6 billion).

The report from Capel's Petroleum Services Department, which specialises in tracking North Sea oil developments, was the first indication of last year's output.

Seven new fields came on stream in the British sector in 1989, but Capel said their contribution was outweighed by the legacy of a series of accidents starting the previous year.

Trouble began when a gas blast killed 167 men on Occidental Petroleum Corp's Piper Alpha platform in July 1988, shutting in several other fields.

Five months later a storage tanker broke its moorings at Royal Dutch/Shell's Finlmar field, and a blast last April shut a key Shell pumping platform for six weeks.

Capel said oil output in Norway, Britain's main North Sea rival, climbed 30 per cent last year to a record 1.52 million bpd.

The rise stemmed from a full year's production at Norsk Hydro A/S's Oseberg field and a steady increase at Gullfaks field, operated by state-owned Statoil.

## Dollar mostly lower

### Tokyo stocks recover broadly

LONDON, Jan 17, (UPI) — The dollar closed mostly lower against the major European currencies today, depressed by disappointing US trade deficit figures for November.

The dollar closed lower in Frankfurt at 1.6885 German marks against Tuesday's close at 1.6965 and also was lower in Zurich at 1.5030 Swiss francs against 1.5205, in Paris at 5.7625 French francs against 5.8105, in Brussels at 35.29 Belgian francs against 35.66, and in Milan at 1,262.75 lire against 1,273.65.

In London, the pound closed lower at \$1.6495 against \$1.6552 at Tuesday's close, as the US unit gained late support on a slightly improved Wall Street.

Zurich gold closed lower at \$410.50 per ounce against \$413.50 per ounce at Tuesday's close, and also was lower in London at \$410.25 per ounce against \$413.75 per ounce.

Silver closed unchanged in Zurich at \$5.25 per ounce, but was lower in London at \$5.23 per ounce against \$5.26 per ounce.

Tokyo stock prices jumped today to recover about half of the losses they suffered on Tuesday, as investors welcomed a stronger performance on Wall Street, brokers said.

Most other major Asian share markets also bounced back after declining in recent days.

Tokyo's key 225-share Nikkei index jumped 360.66 points, or 0.98 per cent, to be 37,211.02 at midday.

The index had plunged 666.41 points on Tuesday, the market's sixth largest one-day drop ever.

"The jump this morning is not surprising at all," said a trader at one of Japan's major securities houses. "A lot of good news was grabbed up by people here."

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 23.25 points to 2,692.62 on Tuesday despite stock market lumbies in London and Frankfurt.

Slightly higher yen bond prices and relatively stable currency rates also helped boost buying sentiment in Tokyo, brokers said.

A fall in bond prices and the weak yen triggered Tuesday's selloff of Japanese stocks.

"Even a whale has to come up sometime for air," said one foreign broker in reference to the Tuesday fall.

"I'd say it's mainly New York that got things going, but the thin trade can dramatically influence the market," said Greg Bundy, head of equity trading at Merrill Lynch in Tokyo.

Answer to G-7

15-nation summit planned

GENEVA, Jan 17, (Reuters) — Fifteen Third World countries decided today to hold a summit meeting in June before the annual summit of the Group of Seven developed nations.

The new G-15, which includes heavily indebted Mexico, Brazil and Argentina, said it hoped the meeting could formulate united positions on such issues as the Third World debt burden and the upbeats in Eastern Europe.

It also hoped that through such annual gatherings it could become more effective than such bodies as the Non-Aligned Movement, which finds it difficult to deal effectively with all the issues facing its 102 member states during summits held once every three years.

"The idea is to have a comfortable, informal, relaxed discussion without being tied to any position or paper prepared in advance," said Muchkund Dubey, Indian chairman of a group of representatives who met in Geneva to prepare for the G-15 summit set for June 1 to 3.

"The leaders would be talking to each other rather than making speeches," said Dubey, who is economic affairs secretary at India's Foreign Ministry.

The venue to be announced by the end of this month, will be either the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur, which diplomats said appeared to be the preferred site, or the Indonesian capital Jakarta.

Selected on the basis of regional representation and expressed interest, the 15 nations are Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe.

They have had no approaches from the G-7, "and we have no such ambitions for the time being," Dubey told a news conference. But he added officials were separately trying to set up a summit between selected developed and developing nations.

One of the concerns the G-15 will address is the swift changes in Eastern Europe as well as the breakdown of barriers in the European

Dubey did not elaborate but developing nations have recently voiced concern that the West would direct its attention and funds away from them and towards Eastern Europe.

The next G-7 summit — bringing together the leaders of the United States, West Germany, Japan, Britain, Canada, France and Italy — is due to take place in Houston, Texas, in early July.

Foreign debt to be reviewed

IMF team in Cairo

WASHINGTON, Jan 17, (AP) — Salah Hamed, Governor of Egypt's Central Bank, and Atif Ebeid, Minister of Cabinet Affairs, scheduled a meeting today with the International Monetary Fund on Egypt's foreign debt, one of the Third World's biggest.

Both men accompanied Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Meguid, who came to discuss Middle East peace prospects with Secretary of State James A. Baker III and other US officials.

Hamed and Ebeid were to see Paul Chabrier, deputy director of the fund's Middle East department. An official, who spoke on condition he not be named, said the fund wants the Egyptian government to commit itself to an overall programme of debt reduction instead of taking piecemeal measures, as in the past.

No final decision was expected from the meeting.

Egyptian authorities have been negotiating for over a year to get loan from the fund. Such a loan, considered a sign of international confidence in the borrower, would open the way for a new agreement between Egypt and its creditors to postpone interest and repayments on the debts Egypt already owes them. Postponements were agreed in 1987 and 1988.

The World Bank, the fund's sister organisation, put Egypt's debt at the end of 1988 at \$49.97 billion. Egypt also owed \$2.1 billion in overdue interest. By way of comparison, Argentina owed \$58.9 billion and Nigeria \$30.7 billion.

One reason that Egypt has failed to keep up with its debts is that it spends more on imports than it earns on exports — \$2.679 billion more in 1988. It is helped by more than \$2 billion in aid a year from the United States and additional money from Saudi Arabia.

The Bank said that at least \$37.13 billion of Egypt's debt was lent by governments and by bodies like the World Bank and IMF. Both the bank and the fund are owned by the same 152 countries and have headquarters in Washington.

heavy selling for the third day in a row.

FRANKFURT: A technical recovery fizzled. The Dax index closed at 1,802.48, up 13.8.

ZURICH: Swiss shares came off their early high on profit taking. The SPI index closed four points firmer at 1,126.5.

PARIS: Business focused on special situation stocks and prices ended close to the day's highs in a partly technical recovery. The CAC-40 index gained 17.93 to 1,933.14.

LONDON: Shares edged back from early losses after Wall Street steadied. The FTSE index closed at 2,375.9, up 24.8.

NEW YORK: A wider trade gap and disappointing IBM earnings produced only a short-lived fall. At 1727 GMT the Dow Jones industrial was up 10 points to 2,703.5.

SINGAPORE: Share prices closed off their highs. The Straits Times index gained 20.34 to 1,532.04.

BOMBAY: Fears of heavy taxes under the new government produced

## Move to boycott L'Oreal Campaign launched

PARIS, Jan 17, (Reuters) — Animal-rights activists called today for a boycott of L'Oreal, the world's leading cosmetics group, protesting against its use of animals to test new products.

The campaigners, led by the US group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta), plan protests outside L'Oreal factories in Europe and the United States to lobby the company to stop laboratory tests on animals.

The groups, from West Germany, Italy, France, Britain and the United States, have already written to department stores and chemists asking them to stop selling L'Oreal goods.

L'Oreal said in a statement it was now testing only five per cent of its new products on animals, compared with 50 per cent five years ago.

The group added that it had dropped controversial techniques such as the Draize method, in which corrosive substances are poured into rabbits' eyes and left for up to several weeks to gauge the effect on humans.

More than one million gaudily-coloured posters will be circulated bearing the photograph of a mutilated rabbit over the caption: "What L'Oreal does to animals makes your hair stand on end."

"We'll stick like glue until they change," said Susan Rich, chief organiser for Peta, which says it has already forced the Revlon and Avon cosmetics groups to halt animal experiments.

Rich determined to strip away the sophisticated image of the billion-dollar L'Oreal group, which produces expensive and well-known perfumes such as Lancome, Guy Laroche and Cacharel.

"There's a hidden ingredient in every L'Oreal product, and that's animal suffering and animal death," she told a news conference in Paris where the campaign against the French-based company is being launched.

L'Oreal, which had a turnover of nearly 21 billion francs (\$3.7 billion) in the first nine months of 1989, stressed it only carried out experiments that were absolutely necessary for consumer safety.

"We are constantly looking for ways to cut back on animal experiments, but our main concern is that our customers should be able to use our products with safety," said L'Oreal spokesman Jacques Glain.

But Peta, which believes most of the experiments are carried out for legal rather than safety reasons, says it can prove the group still uses cruel and outdated methods which cause unnecessary suffering to thousands of animals each year.

Finns plan trade centre

FINLAND is to make a major export thrust into the Gulf region. The campaign was outlined by Jyry Louhio of the Finnish Foreign Trade Association at a press conference in Dubai yesterday.

It includes the possibility of establishing a permanent trade centre in the region.

"We also expect more Finnish manufacturers to set up in the Jebel Ali Free Zone where a Finnish fertiliser factory is already operating," said Louhio.

The press conference came on the final day of Middle East Electricity '90 — the premier exhibition for the Gulf's power industry at which a seven-strong Finnish delegation has been exhibiting.

"We are becoming more involved in the region," said Rainer Wegelius, Finland's Consul in the UAE.

"We have been very actively promoting the Jebel Ali Free Zone in Finland and we expect more companies to establish plants there."

Middle East Electricity '90 was the first exhibition at which an official Finnish delegation had taken part. Six out of the seven exhibitors were attending the show for the first time.

"We have been very pleased with the response," said Gun Hede, export manager for first-time

## Gulf exports drive planned

exhibitor, Ensto Lighting. "We believe we can do business in the region and are now planning to establish an agency network."

Finland already sells Dhs 1.1 billion worth of products to the Middle East annually but Louhio predicts the figure could rise substantially over the next few years.

"One of our main export strengths is industrial and hi-tech equipment and we believe there is tremendous potential in this region," he added.

Another delegation member, Nokia Cahles has recently appointed an agent in Abu Dhabi. Part of Finland's largest private corporation, the company has Middle East offices in Iraq, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

It is currently supplying materials and technical expertise to the Egyptian state-owned contractor, Elefant, for a major electrification project in North Yemen.

Meanwhile, Wartals Diesel, the world's largest manufacturer of medium-speed engines, has been contracted to supply generating sets for two large Saudi Arabian water projects. The company is also currently participating in several import regional tenders.

at the end of 1989.

But since then, the key Nikkei stock index has been moving almost exclusively down.

That, too, has its logic. The international situation in the Soviet Union looks increasingly chaotic, and doing business in the old East bloc may not be a picnic. If Gorbachev were to leave office for any reason, business prospects could dim.

So rumours hinting at the Soviet President's resignation or diminution of power tend to lower confidence. Investors may unload "red chip" shares in trading companies and firms dealing in consumer electronic goods and environmental equipment, though most likely to be able to make a profit from the communists.

Two Fridays ago, the second day of trading this year, the Tokyo Nikkei 225-share index plunged 438 points, more than 1 per cent, on rumours that Gorbachev

## Gorbachev rumours rankle red-chip market

TOKYO, Jan 17, (AP) — In a stock market driven up partly by "red chip" shares, it is any surprise that rumours about Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev contribute to nervous moves in share prices?

No, say watchers of the Tokyo Stock Exchange, where capitalists have been placing some of their gambles on the communists.

This turn of events, unthinkable a few years ago, has its own internal logic. Peace is good for business, especially in Japan, where the defence industry is a small sector of the economy. Gorbachev and US President George Bush made progress at their Malta summit. Eastern European countries are opening their doors to outside business, and Japanese firms with possible deals in Poland, Hungary or the Soviet Union could be winners — the "red chip" stocks.

The Tokyo Stock Exchange rode these two trends in the East bloc to a record high

had cancelled all meetings with foreign visitors to deal with overwhelming domestic problems. He had indeed put off a meeting with British Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock, but soon former Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe was announcing a trip to Moscow — to talk with Gorbachev.

A false rumour, it seems, but not the last or the biggest.

When the Tokyo exchange closed Wednesday, the Nikkei 225-share index was at 36,821.14, about 5 per cent below the record quote of 38,915.87 at the end of 1989. Again, rumours that Gorbachev was on his way out were part of the reason, analysts said.

Commenting recently, Yamaichi Securities analyst Kenji Maeshiro said, "Gorbachev will probably have to die a thousand times in such rumours this year," besides supposedly resigning.

Tokyo shares are driven by many factors besides rumours but a few adverse rumours can make a bear market even more bearish.

The "peace dividend" feeling that pulled the market up in December was buttressed by a consensus that Japan's Central Bank would not raise interest rates until after a national election in February. But the bank confounded that consensus by raising the discount rate on Dec 25, contributing to a loss of momentum. Then the dollar has been strong against the yen, which could boost inflation in Japan, another confidence-cutter. Programmed trading can move stock prices and so can bond prices.

Stock exchanges are hives of rumours. A few years ago, the London markets sometimes took shock dips over rumours that President Ronald Reagan had died. Then there were rumours about which British gentleman had profited by starting the rumour.



## BUSINESS

## Romania to search for foreign loans

BUCHAREST, Jan 17, (Reuters): Romania is calculating its foreign borrowing needs and expects to approach Japan and the United States first, National Economy Minister Victor Stanculescu said today.

The country's new leaders had reversed the rigid no-loan policy of the ousted communist regime and ordered a group of experts who worked out the volume of credits and loans needed to get the economy going, he said.

"The deadline is the end of January ... I await their report but I have asked them to seek contacts already starting with Japan and the United States," Stanculescu, an army general, told Reuters in a wide-ranging interview.

In answer to other questions, he ruled out an early devaluation of the Lei currency, confirmed that late dictator Nicolae Ceausescu had wiped out Romania's external debt but said he was not yet able to quantify the country's reserves.

The provisional government in power since Ceausescu's fall on December 22 says it has inherited an economic disaster.

It has announced a massive import programme over the next three months to meet the targets it has set — more food for Romania's 23 million people and energy to get industry going.

"Our priorities are people first and equipment second. Before (under Ceausescu) we said we were only interested in dollars or oil but now we want something to put on the dining table," Stanculescu said.

His new ministry is the result of a fusion of the old state planning committee and the ministry of technical and material supply — two temples of the old regime's central planning orthodoxy.

Stanculescu, a third generation military officer, was a deputy defence minister in charge of military production and procurement before last December's uprising.

## IBM earnings sharply down

NEW YORK, Jan 17, (Reuters): International Business Machines Corp., the world's largest computer company, today reported sharply lower fourth-quarter and yearly earnings for 1989 due to restructuring and job cut costs.

The restructuring charge of \$2.4 billion, or 2.58 a share, was \$100 million more than the company indicated last month. But the earnings figures were below expectations, even accounting for the higher restructuring cost.

For the quarter, the Armonk, N.Y.-based computer giant said earnings fell to \$591 million, or \$1.04 a share, from \$2.35 billion, or \$3.97 a share. Revenues rose to \$20.46 billion from \$20.00 billion in the 1988 period.

IBM has been hit by slack demand for computers, both in the United States and, increasingly, in foreign markets. The slowdown was evident in the fourth quarter, when sales barely moved higher.

## Currency Rates

KUWAIT, Jan 17, (Kuna): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.291130	0.292228
Sterling	0.482111	0.483477
DM	0.171505	0.172589
Sw. Fr.	0.192455	0.193691
F.Fr.	0.050412	0.050699
Li.Rm.	0.0002300	0.0002320
Jap. Yen	0.001999	0.002012
Bah.din.	0.772023	0.775690
UAE Dh.	0.079240	0.079596
S. riyal	0.077393	0.077962
O. riyal	0.079336	0.080340
O. riyal	0.755887	0.759563

## Interest Rates

KUWAIT, Jan 17, (Kuna): Following are the average K.D. interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8-5/16	8-9/16
3 months	8-5/16	8-9/16
6 months	8-1/4	8-1/2
1 year	8-3/16	8-1/2

BEIJING, Jan 17, (Agencies): Former US Federal Reserve board chairman Paul A. Volcker urged China today to keep its economy open to the world.

Volcker, guest speaker at a three-day conference on central banking, said he hoped China's open-door policy would continue because international co-operation in monetary matters was "irrelevant if you have a closed society."

The conference, sponsored by the UN Development Programme, the International Monetary Fund and the People's Bank of China, focused on such areas as the role of monetary policy and the functions of the Central Bank.

Bank.

Chen Yuan, deputy governor of the People's Bank, China's central bank, told a news conference that one thing learned from Volcker and other participants was "how to resist strong demand for funds from local governments and enterprises."

Volcker, head of the Fed from 1979 to 1987, was known for sticking to a tight money policy in the face of strong political pressure in a winning battle against inflation.

In late 1988, China began restricting credit and took other austerity measures in a drive to bring inflation

## Bankers urged to aid bank reforms

under control.

The government succeeded by late 1989 in bringing the inflation rate under 10 per cent, compared to 30 per cent a year earlier, but at a cost of rising unemployment and thousands of factories having to shut down or reduce production because of lack of operating funds.

"In the long run, inflation is destructive for growth and unemployment," said Volcker, who now teaches economic policy at Princeton University. "There's a great deal to be said for giving priority to stabilizing prices."

Chen acknowledged that under the current "retrenchment" policies, the

government has given priority to price stability rather than pricing reforms. Western economists say are crucial for a modern, market-oriented economy.

"But that doesn't mean we have stopped price reform," Chen said, pointing to new pricing systems in the coal and transport industries.

Richard D. Erb, deputy managing director of the IMF, also praised China for its ability to rein in inflation, saying there were very few nations that have achieved China's level of growth "without having severe deterioration in terms of inflation."

Erb said the speakers at the con-

ference, including Central Bank of Mexico governor Miguel Macera and former National Bank of Belgium governor Jean Godeaux, stressed the need for a central bank with autonomy and accountability and a commitment to competition among financial markets and price and wage flexibility.

China has called on top Western central bankers to help reform its banking system and give new muscle to its central bank, often bullied by other arms of the government.

Chinese bankers and economists have long complained that the People's Bank of China, the central bank of

China, had too little power and was unable to deflect pressure from local governments to ease credit controls.

They have argued that without the power to deny credit, the central bank does little more than print money to cover government deficits.

Chen Yuan, deputy governor of the central bank, said he expected the bank to expand its powers in future and that Western advice was helpful.

"We believe there are things we can borrow," he said. "The People's Bank of China will continue to be strengthened along with economic development."

## Iraq ready to open air links

## Flights to Tehran likely to start soon

BAGHDAD, Iraq, Jan 17, (AP): Interior Minister Samir Mohammed Abdel-Wahab said today preparations have been completed for starting daily flights to Tehran and opening the land borders with Iran for visits by Muslim pilgrims.

The official Iraqi News Agency quoted an unidentified Iraqi Airways official as saying four jumbo jets were ready to depart for Tehran to transport as many as 1,500 Iranian pilgrims daily to Iraq as soon as Iran agreed.

Abdel-Wahab said in an interview with the magazine Alef Ba that the decision for the air and land links was based on a proposal by President Saddam Hussein last month.

Saddam proposed new direct talks to revive the stalled peace negotiations with Iran, exchange of prisoners of war, the opening of air links between Baghdad and Tehran and visits by pilgrims to religious sites in both countries.

Tehran, which insists on talks under United Nations auspices,

called the proposal a "deception" and said it felt short for not calling for an Iraqi troop withdrawal from Iranian territory captured during the 8-year-long Iran-Iraq war.

Abdel-Wahab said that in addition to the air link, preparations have also been completed to assist prospective Iranian pilgrims travelling by road to religious sites in Iraq.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs has also prepared special "comfortable accommodation" for the pilgrims, he said.

Meantime 50 sick and disabled Iraqi POWs released by Iran arrived in Baghdad today aboard a plane chartered by the International Red Cross.

Akram Al Witri, a Foreign Ministry legal adviser, said Iraq would reciprocate by releasing 20 Iranian sick and disabled prisoners on Thursday.

There was no explanation why Iraq would not release an equal number of prisoners.

ICRC officials said the char-

tered airliner that brought the Iraqi prisoners would remain in Baghdad to fly the released Iranians to Tehran.

The Red Cross has registered some 50,000 prisoners held by Iran and more than 19,200 by Iraq. But United Nations officials and diplomats estimate the two sides hold about 100,000 POWs between them.

The Red Cross secured an agreement to repatriate ailing prisoners immediately after a UN-sponsored ceasefire halted the Gulf war on Aug 20, 1988.

But the deal collapsed after the exchange of only 400 disabled and wounded prisoners with both sides accusing each other of falsifying the number of captives seeking asylum.

UN-sponsored peace talks launched a few days after the ceasefire have been deadlocked mainly over the troop withdrawal issue and Iraq's demand for the demarcation of the border to give it sovereignty over the Shatt Al Arab waterway, its main outlet to the sea.

## OIC economy ministers plan meeting

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia, Jan 17, (AP): Finance and economy ministers of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference will meet in Algiers on Feb 28 to review means of enhanced inter-Islamic economic and financial co-operation, OIC officials announced today.

The two-day meeting will be the 14th annual conference of the board of governors of the Islamic Development Bank which, since being established in Jeddah in 1975, provided member states with finances close to \$10 billion.

The assistance was in the form of loans, technical assistance and foreign trade financing operations.

Both the OIC, a confederation of Muslim states, and the IDB are based in Jeddah, the Red Sea port city of Saudi Arabia.

Representatives of other Islamic banks, national financing institutions and regional and international organisations will attend the meeting that Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid is scheduled to inaugurate, the official said.

The IDB, like mushrooming Islamic banks in the OIC states, rejects the principle of interest, which sharia or Islamic principles consider a form of usury. Instead they have a system of distributing profit.

## Imports decline Trade deficit widens

WASHINGTON, Jan 17, (AP): The US foreign trade deficit widened in November to \$10.5 billion, its worst showing in 11 months, the government reported today.

The Commerce Department said that while imports declined by \$593 million to \$40.69 billion, US exports dropped a larger \$843 million to \$30.19 billion. The trade deficit is the difference between imports and exports.

The government blamed much of the setback on the Boeing aircraft strike, which severely cut into exports of expensive commercial airliners.

But private analysts were still disheartened by the deficit figure. Many had been looking for a slight improvement following a sharp deterioration in October.

The October trade deficit totalled \$10.25 billion. Both October and November represented the worst performance since a \$10.8 billion deficit in December 1988.

For the first 11 months of 1989, the US trade deficit ran at an annual rate of \$111 billion, compared with a deficit of \$118.53 billion in all of 1988.

Many economists believe that the US foreign trade deficit will increase in 1990, reversing a two-year trend of improvements.

This is an unsettling forecast for President George Bush's

## Imports decline

## US industrial output soars

WASHINGTON, Jan 17, (AP): America's industrial production rose 0.4 per cent in December, the second consecutive monthly gain, as unseasonably cold weather fired up output by utilities, the government said today.

However, manufacturing production remained sluggish, partly because of the weather. The slow pace was reflected by loss of 25,000 jobs in the manufacturing sector and an unchanged 40.7-hour average work week.

The manufacturing sector, particularly durable goods — items such as cars and household appliances expected to last more than three years — has been affected by the Federal Reserve Board's tight reign on credit designed to curtail inflation since many such items are financed by loans.

In its report today, the board said December's gain in production followed a revised 0.3 per cent advance in November, up from the 0.1 per cent reported initially. Output had declined 0.4 per cent in October and 0.1 per cent in September.

"The extremely cold weather in December caused a sharp rise in utility output, but also resulted in some production disruptions, particularly in petroleum refining and construction supplies," the Fed said.

"Aircraft production returned to normal in December following the settlement of a strike" at the Boeing Co., it said.

In another report, the Central Bank said the operating rate at the nation's factories, mines and utilities rose 0.2 percentage point to 83.3 per cent in December, reflecting the increase in the production rate. The operating rate measures not only output but also changes in productivity levels.

"A surge of five percentage points in the operating rate for utilities, which was the largest in the 23-year history of this series, resulted from the abnormally cold temperatures experienced in December," the Fed said. "Elsewhere, utilisation in manufacturing edged down 0.1 percentage point, while the rate for mining fell nearly a percentage point."

administration, which is counting on continued growth in exports to bolster the US economy and dampen demands in Congress for protectionist trade legislation.

The 2.7 per cent drop in US exports left them at their lowest level since last March.

Almost half of all economic growth in the past two years has been supplied by a boom in export sales. But economists are worried that these strong increases are in danger of stalling out in 1990, in part because the dollar was rising in value most of last year.



Picture shows Capt. Peter Wakely, general manager of Alghanim Barwil Kuwait, giving away the prizes to Mrs Alka while R. Kumar Bhatia (second from left) looks on.

## Willine launches annual party

WILLINE, a major conference line, operating from Far East/South East Asia to Middle East, launched their annual party in Holiday Inn hotel on Jan 15. Local businessmen and the ambassadors of India, Pakistan and Thailand attended.

Willine is a full container service line operating within the conference namely "Jappercon" with weekly sailings to all major ports in the Middle East, having been in the trade for the last 20 years, successfully meeting the

complex shipping demands of the business community in this area.

Captain Bo Lofman, commercial manager of Willine stressed the fact that Willine is poised to serve their customers by introducing a 7 vessel service, from the beginning of 1990, with a round voyage time of 49 days that will give weekly calls at all major ports.

Willine is fully owned by the Norwegian shipping company

Wilhelmsen Lines A/S, which also owns the renowned services Cancairers (Europe/USA to New Zealand/Australia) and Barber Blue Sea, BBS (Far East to Panama/USA/Canada/Caribbean).

In Kuwait Willine is represented by Alghanim Barwil Shipping Co. Willine's local sales manager Ravinder Kumar Bhatia thanked the guests for their valuable support and co-operation and assured them of Willine's continued service.



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A WORLD OF UNDERSTANDING.

## Kaifu gives Hungary \$500m credit

BUDAPEST, Hungary, Jan 17 (AP): Japan is prepared to offer Hungary credit worth \$500 million, plus technology and managerial expertise to help with its economic reforms, a Japanese official said today.

Shigeo Takenaka made the announcement after an initial round of talks between Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and his Hungarian counterpart Miklos Nemeth.

Kaifu arrived in Budapest Monday on the last leg of a seven-nation 10-day tour of Europe. He returns home today.

The credit package from the Japanese Export-Import Bank is to be distributed over three years, Takenaka said. The terms of the credits are to be discussed later.

However, the state MTI news agency said part of the Japanese credit is to be linked to credits from the International Monetary

Fund for economic restructuring.

Hungary's parliament last month adopted a series of austerity measures demanded by the IMF. They include reducing state subsidies, allowing some private ownership and introducing market forces into the slugging economy.

Hungary has a foreign debt of some \$20 billion — the highest per capita in Eastern Europe.

When the measures took effect this month, prices more than doubled on some consumer items and basic foods. On Monday evening, as Kaifu was attending a gala dinner with Nemeth in Budapest's ornate parliament building, some 1,000 people protested the price hikes.

Takenaka, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said the Japanese government was also

prepared to extend trade and investment guarantees of between \$200 million to 400 million.

Kaifu said Tuesday the Japanese government hoped to transfer expertise and technology to Hungary and announced that over the next five years his country would spend \$25 million training Hungarian and Polish economists, managers and environmentalists, MTI reported.

Also Tuesday, a contract was signed with Toyota to supply Hungary with several thousand ambulances over the next ten years, MTI said.

Last week Suzuki Motor Co., Japan's largest sub-compact car producer, reached agreement to set up a plant near Budapest, in what would be the sixth joint venture between the two countries.



EVENTS

# Panasonic AV and OV exhibition

THE Panasonic AV and OV Convention was held at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel on Tuesday as part of a four-day exhibition organised by National agent Easa Husain Al Yousifi and Matsushita Electric Industrial Company Ltd., Japan.

On display are dubbing systems, editing systems and CCTV systems, cordless phones, facsimile machines and other audio-visual equipment and office machines.

"We wanted to introduce efficient audio-visual product and office automation devices and promote them for improved performance in offices," said Hirozo Yamamoto, Matsushita's senior assistant manager for system equipment sales for Asia and the Middle East.

Yamamoto said the convention is part of his company's policy to introduce and promote their products on world markets.

Commenting on his company's policy of transfer of technology, Yamamoto said Matsushita has about 100 foreign production units. It shifted production of certain items to offshore factories in Thailand and Malaysia, he said, to share technical know-how. Asked if there might be a similar programme for the Gulf, Yamamoto said: "Not at the moment."

He believes that an automated plant needs to be cost-effective. He said: "Nowadays the emphasis is on automated, high quality products; this must guarantee a certain quantity of production for a project to be economically feasible."

For the moment, Matsushita wants to concentrate on the industries in Southeast Asia. "We have a big commitment in Southeast Asian countries and for the moment, we cannot shift emphasis," said Yamamoto.

The Japanese market has reached a saturation point and is facing fierce competition with relatively inexpensive Korean products. Yamamoto believes the industry has nothing to fear because "not all people buy cheap products."

Yamamoto waves aside claims of competition from such countries as Korea saying: "We believe that we must assist regional countries to develop industry; we are finding a way to co-exist." He said this was one reason for transfer of technology.

Yamamoto said "hard work, discipline and trained, skilled staff and quality products" contributed substantially to the success of his company. Matsushita was named among the first 60 top companies by the US Fortune

magazine. Except the US, the company enjoys the ninth place in the electronics industry.

The National agent in Kuwait, Easa Husain Al Yousifi, said they plan to introduce cordless phones in Kuwait shortly. Yousifi admitted the market for

electronic products was affected by recession but said "Fortunately, (it was) not so bad for us as we have been able to keep our market share." National products enjoy a large percentage of sales in the consumer products market.

S. Itoh, manager of Matsushita Electric, Kuwait office, also took part in the convention. A large number of invitees attended the Panasonic AV and OV exhibition, which will be open to public, during working hours today and tomorrow.



S. Itoh, manager



Hirozo Yamamoto, executive

## WHAT'S ON

### ARTS

**Serbian drama**  
THE seminar at the D.A. (Dramatic Arts) European Artin The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be held during the period Feb. 11, March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday, 11.00-12.30 am, evening sessions on Sunday and Tuesday, 6.00-7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning: the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, Tel: 2430826, 2433259.

**Iraqi ceramics**  
An exhibition of Iraqi ceramics is currently being held at the Hunting and Equestrian Club. The exhibition will be opened everyday until January 26 from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm and 4.00 pm to 8.00 pm.

**Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints**  
THE Sultan Gallery is exhibiting Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition until Jan 31. The gallery is open from 9.30 am to 12.30 noon and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For more information contact: 2421951.

### SOCIAL

**Kuwait Singers**  
THE Kuwait Singers will begin rehearsals for its May concert on Monday, January 22, at 7.30 pm at the Gulf English School, Salwa. New members are most welcome. For more information contact 4884134 or 3900922.

**Rags Sharqi**  
INTENSIVE courses (January and February) in Rags Sharqi, the classical dance form of the Middle East. For details call 4836021.

**Kuwait Little Theatre**  
Kuwait Little Theatre, Ahmadi, are holding auditions for a comedy to be staged in the theatre in early March and directed by Dave Dorrington. The auditions will be held in the Theatre on 21 and 22 January at 8 pm. All those interested in auditioning are welcome. Those interested in helping backstage are also welcome to attend.

### Konkani drama

THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sonsant Astana Diat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funaites) on 16th February 1990. The cast all from Goa include M. Boyer, Felcy, Jose, Elaine, Betty Alvarez, Tina, Junique, Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, Lohia de Parra and Menino de Bandar. Tickets now available at Ganary Video (Sharqi) and Video Clock (near G.P.O.). Rush for tickets, one show only.

**Like a Hurricane**  
SEVENTH Sky's upcoming Rock concert at Al Andalus cinema on 15th & 16th February, 1990. We are looking for voluntary helpers and also an additional male & female vocalist. Ring 5748476 or 2433219.

**INDIAN Arts Circle**  
announces the II Annual One Play Competition to be held during Eid holidays in April, 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), best Director, Best Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funaites. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel. 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

**SAAZ aur Aawaz**  
SAAZ aur Aawaz which is one of the leading Indian musical groups with complete orchestra presents their fourth musical programme entitled "Bhule Bisre Geet" covering hit songs of yesteryears at the Indian Arts Circle, Funaites on Friday, Feb. 2, 1990 at 6 pm. There will also be lucky draw prizes. For Passes call 3985456/3610224/5638026 after 4 pm.

### British Council

Return to Oz Wednesday, 17 January at 6.00 pm; Thursday, 18 January at 10.30 am, 10.5 min.

Return to the Land where the adventure began, Dorothy finds herself back in the land of her dreams and makes delightful new friends (Tik Tok, Jack Pumpkinhead and the Gump) and dangerous new enemies (creaky Wheelers, head-hunting Princess Mombi and the evil Nome King). Amazing surprises in every twist in the yellow brick road.

### Folk songs

A CULTURAL show on popular folk songs and dances of Bangladesh organised by Nirjhar cultural group will be presented at the auditorium of Sharq Co-operative on Jan 19 at 6 pm.

K.M. Sheha buddin, the ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Kuwait, has kindly consented to grace the occasion as the chief guest.

For details please contact: Mahe Alam 4315692, Salam 4330416, Jainal 2420711, 2409987, Mannan 4317223.

### Hotel Ramada Al Salam

A GRAND Indian Food Festival will be held from Jan 21-26 to coincide with the Republic Day of India. Arun Budhiraja, the Ambassador of India will grace the occasion, which will be supported by various Indian companies with stalls displaying Indian products. Enchanting performances by Indian classical dancers and musicians will be the highlights. A scrumptious Indian cuisine seeks to complete a memorable event.

### Carnival Fiesta '90

YMCA/Incredible S.C. are proud to announce their Carnival Fiesta '90 at Messilah Beach Hotel (Habiba) on 22nd Feb 90.

Non stop dancing from 8.30 pm onwards to the beat of latest sensation "Hurricane Alley" and "Neighbour."

Highlights: Best Carnival Couple (Fancy) and many many surprises. For details contact the Organisers. Hurry

### Ballet

STEPS Ballet School commences its new term. Jan 1990 registration is now open. Sat-Wed in the Kuwait English School, Salwa from 3-7 pm. Call 5386481 between 9-12 noon for more information. (For girls only 4-15 years).

### Maharashtra Mandal

MAHARASHTRA Mandal, Kuwait celebrates their second "Makar Sankrat Ustav" on Sunday Jan 21, 1990 at the Indian Embassy Auditorium from 7.00 pm to 10.00 pm. All members are requested to attend.

### Ladies International League

LIL newcomers coffee morning will be held on Monday 29 January from 10 am to 12 noon at the Sheraton Hotel. Newcomers to Kuwait and LIL are most welcome.

### Indian School Manager

THE Indian School Manager is conducting a career guidance seminar at the Indian Arts Circle Auditorium at Funaites on Thursday January 18 from 4.00 to 6.00 pm.

### SPORTS

**Now at the MBH Sports Centre**  
Life saving course, with Royal Life Saving Society Coach, Grade 1 Examiner will be commencing shortly. Ergocycle Fitness Computer tests and courses now available at Messilah.

**Jazzercise/Aerobics/Staying power/Yoga and Ballet** exercise classes also available.

### Hobby centre

A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making - For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

### Shuttle Cup

KUWAIT Cricket League is organising a cricket match between the teams of Indian and Pakistani veterans living in Kuwait, at K.C.L. ground on 2nd February 1990. The match will start at 9 am.

Kuwait Cricket takes this opportunity and announce that a lucky draw will be held with at least fifty prizes which includes colour TV, VCR, sewing machine, watches, cameras and many more household items are waiting for the winners. All are cordially invited. For further information please call, tel. 5332852 S. Rizvi.

### Kart race

KART Racing at Ahmadi on Friday, Round 7 of the Kuwait National Drivers' championship plus a ladies race. Racing starts at 1.30 pm and admission is only 300 fils. Snack bar for hot food and rentakart available for test drives.

### Daniella Dart Tournament 1990

The Dart Tournament for Danes will take place at the Gazelle Club on Friday, Jan 26, starting at 2 pm (expected to finish at 8 pm). It is a family event featuring separate junior tournament, so don't leave the children at home. For further details and registration, please call Henrik Licht - 3727688 ext 246; or Bjørne Rasmussen - 3720137 before Saturday, Jan 20.

### Tivim Centre

"TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-a-side Inter Village Football Tournament which will be held on the Sour grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th 1990. For further information, please contact organisers - 2441860 Casmiro."

### Mitsubishi table tennis

The Mitsubishi table tennis tournament for ladies, gents and mixed doubles at the IAC badminton hall on Fri 19th Jan starting at 9.00 am. Finals of last weeks junior boys singles and doubles will also be held along with the prize giving ceremony for all events (including junior girls). All members, their families and guests interested in participating please call IAC (3904817 after 7 pm), or Jagdish at 2433552, or Sharma at 2644863 for entry passes and details.

### CINEMA

Al Andalus Arabic film  
Salahiyah Arabic film  
Al Hama Arabic film  
Someone to Watch over Me Drive-in  
Revenge of Nerds II  
Al Firdos  
Malamaal  
Lakhi Badhu  
Al Jabra  
Tawaddo Warrior  
Grassada  
License to Kill  
Sakabikhat  
Inquillabente Puthri  
Jeeb  
Garibon Ka Dasta  
Almadi Drive-in  
Arabic film

### FRIDAY

Al Andalus Arabic film  
Salahiyah Arabic film  
Al Hama Arabic film  
Someone to Watch over Me Drive-in  
Revenge of Nerds II  
Al Firdos  
Malamaal  
Lakhi Badhu  
Al Jabra  
Tawaddo Warrior  
Grassada  
License to Kill  
Sakabikhat  
F.E.D.S  
Jeeb  
Pyari Behna  
Almadi Drive-in  
Arabic film

### PRAYERS

Fajr 5.20 am  
Zohr 11.58  
Asr 2.54 pm  
Maghreb 5.14  
Isha 6.35

### FRIDAY

Fajr 5.20 am  
Friday prayer 11.59  
Asr 2.55 pm  
Maghreb 5.14  
Isha 6.36

### NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait  
Dubai Pharmacy  
Wajef Street  
Al Muntaser Pharmacy  
Ahmad Al Jaber Street  
Hawalli and Nagra  
Al Rehab Pharmacy  
Tunis St  
Salmiya and Rasmithiya  
Razan Pharmacy  
Al Rasi Street  
Fahad and Ahmadi  
Al Khaleej Pharmacy  
Al Mnajma Street  
Farwaniya  
Al Farwaniya Pharmacy  
Al Mnawer Complex  
Jahra  
Al Noor Pharmacy  
Al Mafafi Street

## TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

### KTV 1

9.00 Opening and Holy Quran  
9.15 Cartoons  
9.45 Sabah Al Kher news and varieties  
10.00 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)  
10.15 Sabab Al Kher news  
10.30 Rejat Fi Al Masyuda: Arabic serial (part 5), starring Mohammed Redha, Amena Reza, Mimi Jamal  
11.30 The Open Universities: cultural programme  
12.00 Sabab Al Kher News  
12.15 Hesar Wa Nigham: local variety programme, prepared by Khaled Bu Hmaid and presented by Nervana Idrees  
1.00 News summary  
1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)  
1.25 Min Ghair Kalam: variety programme presented by Hassan Mustafa  
2.15 Discovery: cultural programme (part 3)  
3.00 Varieties  
3.30 Liqa Al Khamess: variety programme  
5.00 Bercen: cartoon serial  
5.30 Cartoons  
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements  
6.00 Al Fares Al Aashq: historical serial (part 3)  
7.00 Maa Al Talaba: local programme, prepared by Ministry of Education school activities department  
8.00 Kul Al Fonoon: local variety programme, prepared by Hassan Awwara and presented by Rasha Majdi  
8.30 Maa Al Islam: religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Khaled Al Maikhoor  
9.00 News in Arabic  
9.45 Ghadan Tushroq Al Shams: Arabic serial (part 16)  
10.45 Lasso Qatallan: Arabic feature film, starring Fahred, Shawqi, Saheen, Ihsan Al Qalawi  
12.20 Thursday late night variety show  
1.30 News summary  
1.35 The World Today via Satellite  
1.50 Holy Quran and Closedown



KTV-2 Friday, 10.00 Roseanne

by Fatema Abdul Wahab  
1.00 News Summary  
1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)  
1.20 Hadeeth Deeni: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi  
2.00 The Friday Break  
4.00 Al Hoh We Seneo: Arabic serial (Part 3), starring Husain Fahad, Issad Younis and Abu Baker Ezzi  
5.00 Bercen: Cartoon Serial  
5.30 Cartoons  
5.45 Night Chemists, Airlines, and Official Advertisements  
6.00 Kuwait Television programmes: A week preview  
6.30 Kuwait in a Week: News Programme, prepared and presented by News Control  
7.00 The Living Planet: Cultural Programme (part 3)  
8.00 Maa Al Odra: Local programme, prepared by Tahani Al Burunqat, and presented by Fatema Rashed  
8.45 Hadeeth Al Osboo: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Ali Al Jassar  
9.00 News in Arabic  
9.45 Wrestling  
10.30 Local variety late night programme, prepared by Qasem Abdul Qader and presented by Fatema Abdul Wahab  
11.45 News Summary  
11.50 The World Today via Satellite  
12.15 Holy Quran and Closedown

### FRIDAY

6.00 Opening and Holy Quran  
6.10 Bernstein Bears: A cartoon series for children  
6.30 Walt Disney Movie: "The Swiss Family Robinson". The story of a Swiss family washed by the sea after the wreck of their ship. They have to start their life like primitive men  
8.00 News in English  
8.30 Breaking Away: Recreational and entertainment activities carried out in various parts in Kuwait  
8.45 Rescue 911: A football player is revived after his heart stopped for 25 minutes, and an injured person is rescued in a remote rocky area, a pilot is rescued inside his craft's wheel remained inside its body  
9.30 The Weekend Programme  
10.00 Roseanne: A Mall Story  
10.30 The Mystery Wheel: "Sleep Well Pr. Oliver". Devil-worshippers are exploited by their association's founder who used to record their devilish rituals on videotapes and sell the same for excitement seekers  
11.30 News in Brief  
11.45 Magazine D'Actualite

### KTV 2

6.00 Opening and Holy Quran  
6.10 The Smurfs: A cartoon series for children  
6.30 Mr Wizard's World: A variety of magical acts and illusions... training children how to use or deal with information...  
7.00 Wild America: "Snake Dance". A look at a snake dance which is rarely witnessed or seen by man.  
7.30 My Secret Power: "Toxic Time Bomb". Andrew and his friend Dr Benjamin foils a project planned for producing a toxic time



## 378 steps to paradise

Truly concerned with the enhancement of sportsmanship and camaraderie among hotel employees, the Kuwait International recently sponsored the '378 Steps to Paradise' marathon. It started at the ground floor of KIH's new building and finished at the 19th floor - the Failaka Restaurant. A total of 53 participants turned up in high spirits for this unique event being represented by the Regency Palace, Meridien, SAS and the Sheraton in addition to the Messilah Beach, Khiran Resort and Bayan Palace. The fastest man to paradise was Khalil Rashed of Regency Palace (centre/front row) with a record time of 1'56", closely followed by Chef Dorra of Kuwait International (second row/second from left) with a record time of 1'58" and Solaiman Oudeh of Kuwait International with 2'07"



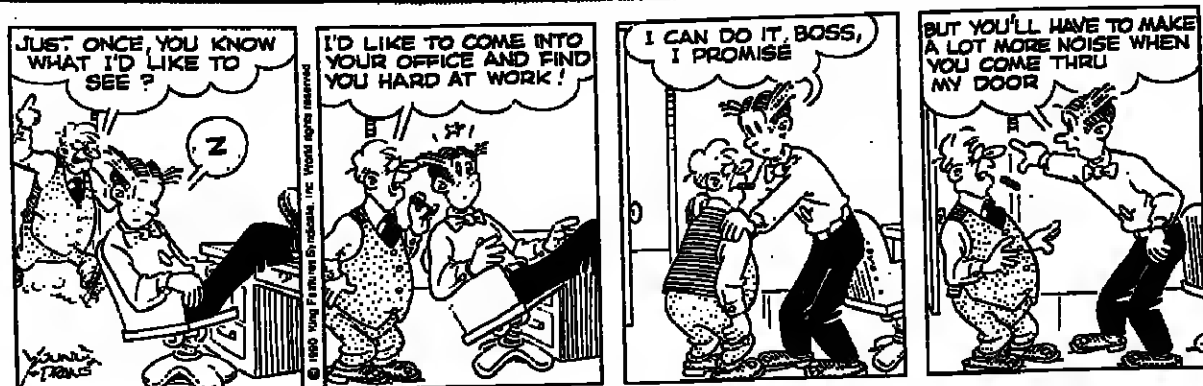
## PC Fahaheel branch office servers

The Pakistan People's Club Fahaheel branch selected the office bearers for the branch at a meeting recently. Dr Riaz Mahesar, PPC's President, and Rafiq Mirza, the General Secretary, attended this function. The nominations were: Jahan Gul (President), Mossa Khan (Senior Vice President), Jamshed (Vice President), Shah Jahan (General Secretary), Mohammed Amin (Ji Secretary), Maz Khan (Press Secretary) and Iftikhar Khan (Treasurer).



## LEISURE

## BLONDIE — By Dean Young &amp; Stan Drake



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



## AGATHA CRUM — By Bill Baker



## BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



## THE WIZARD OF ID — By Frank Parker &amp; Johnny Hart



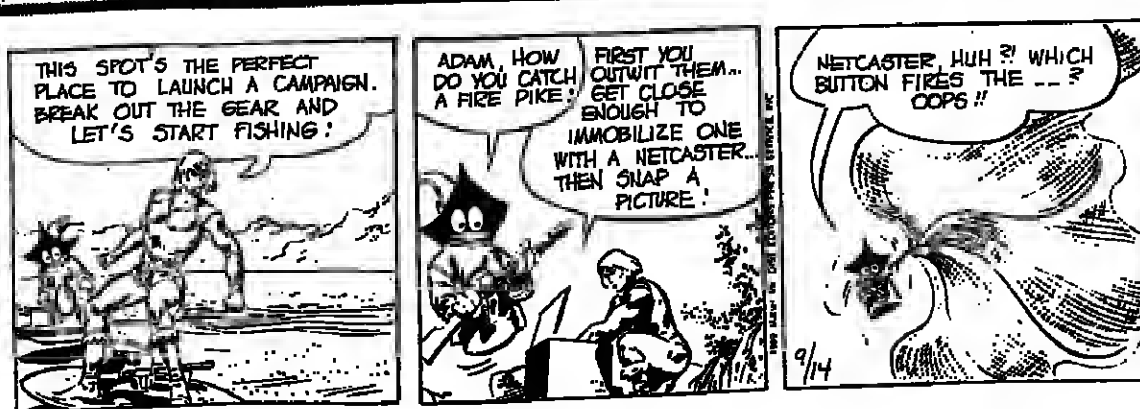
## ANDY CAPP



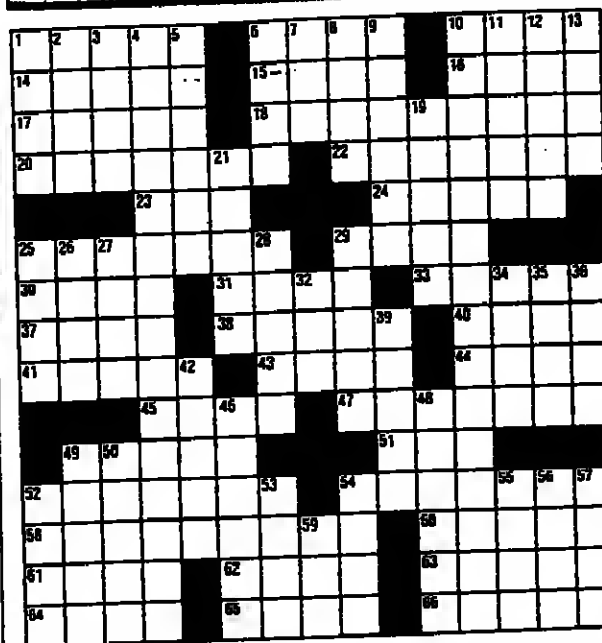
## B.C. — By Johnny Hart



## HE-MAN — By G. Forston &amp; J. Shull



## TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1 Polo from Venice
  - 6 Souffle ingredients
  - 10 Unexciting
  - 14 Men from Manchuria, e.g.
  - 15 Cheerful tune
  - 16 Brother of Eris
  - 17 Fence steps
  - 18 Berlin favorite of 1927
  - 20 Fall
  - 22 Adriatic seaport
  - 23 Little one: Suffix
  - 24 Brave people, to a Cockney
  - 25 Pat — of "Smothers Brothers Comedy Show"
  - 29 Sentence subject
  - 30 Canadian prov.
  - 31 City on the Tevere
  - 33 Nuisances
  - 37 Type of moss
  - 38 Chris of tennis fame
  - 40 Photo
  - 41 Cinder
  - 43 Cunning
  - 44 Golda
  - 45 Place for a pigeonhole
  - 47 Trying experiences
  - 49 Jeweller's weight
  - 51 — pro nobis
  - 52 Egg stones
  - 54 Fathomless
  - 58 Lee
  - 60 Affairs of honor
  - 61 Cut of meat
  - 62 Harp's ancestor
  - 63 Grain disease
  - 64 Antlered beasts
  - 65 Strong — ox
- DOWN
- 28 Kim of "Picnic"
  - 29 Stupor
  - 32 Debussy's "La —"
  - 34 Strawberry's field
  - 35 Labor
  - 36 Riverboats: Abbr.
  - 39 Plutist
  - 42 Bleachers, e.g.
  - 46 "A Streetcar Named Desire" role
  - 48 English poet laureate: 1668-88
  - 49 Bermuda's makeup
  - 50 Regretful interjection
  - 52 Fairy-tale villain
  - 53 "Simon — (children's game)"
  - 54 Capital of Yemen
  - 55 Bucks beginner
  - 56 Thanks —
  - 57 Landing crafts
  - 59 New Deal letters

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF  
RATHER SAFE THAN SORRY

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH  
♠ A J 5 3 2  
♥ A 5 2  
♦ K 7 3  
♣ 6

WEST  
♠ Q 7 6  
♥ Q  
♦ Q J 9 8 6  
♣ 10 8 5 3

EAST  
♠ K 8 4  
♥ J 10 8 6 4 3  
♦ 4 2  
♣ A 7

SOUTH  
♠ 10  
♥ K 9 7  
♦ A 10 5  
♣ K Q J 9 4 2

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
2 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass  
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠  
Before committing yourself to a plan of action, count your tricks! This hand from a team match shows how important that can be.

At both tables, North-South reached three no trump on identical auctions. North's two-spade rebid in this sequence suggested a six-card suit, so there was no reason for him to correct to four spades.

At both tables the lead was the

queen of diamonds, taken by the king. Both declarers led a club from dummy at trick two and both Easts followed with the seven. At one table, South's jack won and the continuation of the king lost to the ace. East reverted to a diamond, declarer tried the ten and West took the jack and cleared the suit. When the ten of clubs failed to drop, declarer ended up with only eight tricks.

At the other table, declarer paused to take stock. With five fast tricks he needed only four from clubs for his contract. Since West could not profitably continue to attack diamonds, declarer found a line of play that guaranteed his contract as long as clubs were no worse than 4-2.

Here, too, declarer led a club at trick two, but to the nine! West took the ten and, since a diamond continuation would do no good, tried switching to a spade. But declarer was in control. Dummy's ace of spades won (to play low could nullify the gain achieved by the excellent play in clubs), and a heart to the king provided the entry to drive out the ace of clubs. The best the defenders could muster was two tricks in each black suit.



## YOUR STARS



You will be in a better mood, but you must beware of an excess of exuberance. Do not blame others for what is at least partly your fault. Make sure you do not leave doors and windows open. Be responsive.



There is no harm in trying some alternatives, but nothing too adventurous. Make sure too that your information is up to date. Do not keep anyone waiting. Be reliable.



Do not expect love to grow on trees; it does not. You should try to consider the positive factors without glossing over or ignoring the negative ones. Work hard but do not allow work to become an obsession. Be generous.



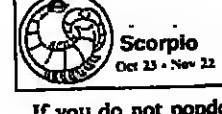
You will have to deal with someone rather aggressive and should not try to counter by being aggressive yourself. The wind is in your sails but do make sure you are steering in the right direction.



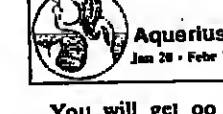
You are liable to forget things so do not place too much reliance on your memory. You are more easily taken in so be on the lookout. Try to rid yourself of some accumulated resentments. Be less fussy.



You will not be in the best of moods and should try to control your temper. Do not try to tell others what to do; advise but do not dictate. Take more care about what you eat. Be prudent.



If you do not ponder carefully you are likely to make the wrong decision. You will encounter an unaccustomed obstacle and should not delay dealing with it. Not everything is quite as you would like it to be, but you will know how to cope. Be reasonable.



You will get on well with a relative stranger but make sure you do not give away any confidences too soon. Do not keep others waiting for a reply to their letters. Avoid leaving things lying around — just what burglars like. Be fair.



Keep your mind on what you are doing, there are plenty of distractions. Something that has proved difficult in the past will now be easier. Think a little longer before choosing. Be tactful.



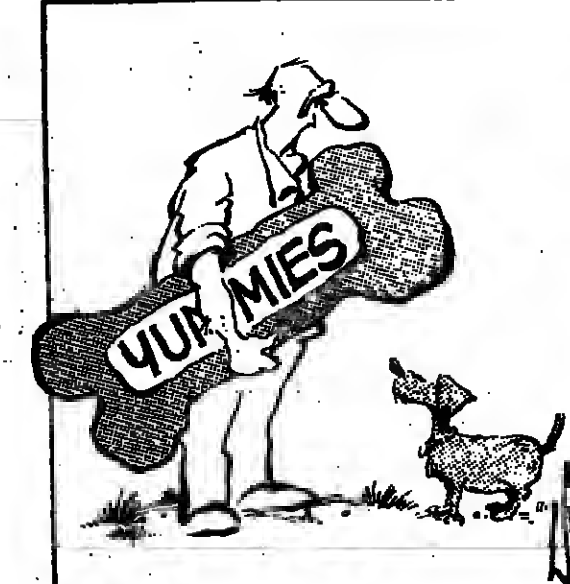
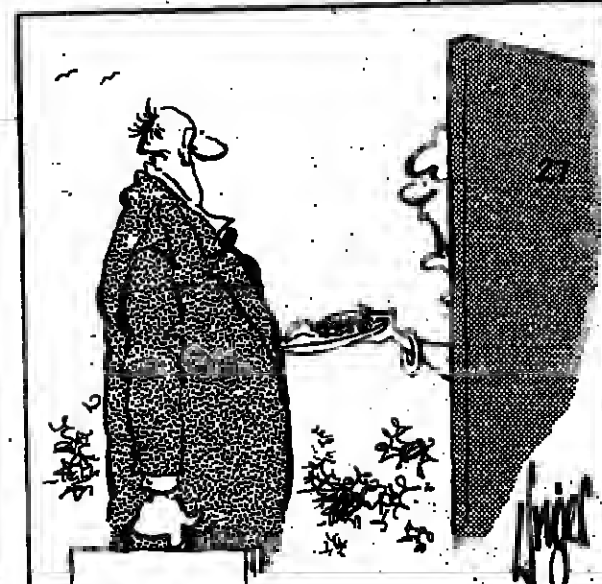
You should have just a little more faith in yourself. Your lucky numbers are 14 and 38. You should not trust too much to luck even though you may well have some. Avoid criticizing others and be a little more critical of yourself. Be trustworthy.



You should be a good friend but should not ask too much from your friends. You have a lot to be pleased about but no reason to be smug. A tendency towards gambling should be restrained. Be sensible.



You will encounter an unusual obstacle but you will have the resources to deal with it. Remember that the truism "waste not want not" still applies. You should face up to your responsibilities and meet your commitments. Be less extravagant.





## Brazil's cult market thrives

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, (AP): In Ricardo Conicaco Lima's store, dried bat wings are a big seller. So are devil statues, baby snakes and deer antler shavings. Lately there's been a run on mystical African incense, said to attract wealth.

Lima's spirit-cult supply store, tucked away in the corner of a musty indoor market in Rio's poor northern zone, has a steady and loyal clientele.

While many retailers are struggling to stay afloat amid 1,765-per cent inflation and soaring interest rates, Lima says business is good and getting better.

"Since March our sales have jumped 50 per cent," he said. "The tougher times get, the better I do."

Lima is one of thousands of merchants who cater to Brazil's legions of spirit-cult worshippers.

An estimated 90 million of the nation's 150 million people follow African voodoo-style cults, generally lumped together under the term Macumba and descended from Yoruba and Bantu religions practiced by slaves.

Over the centuries the cults freely borrowed elements of Roman Catholicism, native Indian faiths and European witchcraft. They are now uniquely Brazilian, and have spread among all races and classes.

"Brazilians have lost faith in their leaders and are turning to spiritual means of solving their problems. Artists, businessmen, politicians — everyone has a hand in it," said Paulo Coelho, a magician and author of several books on magic.

Most cult-art buyers are the poor who inhabit urban shantytown slums, jumbles of shacks lining dirt tracks with no plumbing or running water.

But a growing number of customers are middle- and upper-class Brazilians seeking help for emotional or financial troubles: businessmen worried by inflation, women upset when their grown children leave home, unemployed college graduates frustrated with a shrinking job market.

At the heart of this phenomenon is the belief that many illnesses, economic headaches and romantic setbacks have a spiritual origin — and the same goes for good luck.

"I used to be just a manicurist," said Sonia de Oliveira, a 46-year-old Rio housewife. "But when I became a believer, my whole life improved. Now I have a car, a house and I don't have to work for anyone."

About 85 per cent of Brazilians profess to be Roman Catholics. But many see no conflict in spirit-cult belief as well.

To tap the market, some merchants have switched from peddling household wares and clothes to hawking cult articles. Mannel Figueiras Pontes gave up his fish stand to open a voodoo shop three years ago.

"I knew a lot of people would rather practice Macumba than eat," he said. "So I switched. I'm not sorry I did."

For the voodoo bargain hunter, the market in Madureira district, on Rio's north zone, is the place to shop. Some 37 of the 350 shops in this winding, shadowy market feature black magic items. All the visitor needs is a fat wallet and a strong stomach.

Outside the Otala Tecedor shop, a life-sized mannequin representing the spirit deity Exu is clad in a black top hat, boots and velvet cloak, holding a trident staff.

Africans believed Exu was the principle of change, movement and fertility. But under the influence of Roman Catholicism, Exu in

Brazil became a devil.

This particular Exu is called Marabo, an entity said to bring financial success. His cap costs \$30. The boots are \$145, the trident \$45.

At the nearby Odo-Ya voodoo shop, loads used to cast evil spells go for \$25. Duck feet cost a mere \$4. Elephant tails, seashell necklaces and dried ears of corn used to ward off evil spirits range from \$1 to \$15. A bar of black, tar-like soap to wash away negative fluids goes for \$6.50. It's imported from Africa.

Short on cash? No problem. Proprietor Antonio Heleno accepts all major credit cards.

Heleno takes special pride in a collection of dull brown rocks sitting in ceramic bowls of water on the floor. Their magical properties are protected in blessed water, he explained. This week he's running a special sale — \$3 per rock.

Next door, animals are sold for sacrificial rituals, a controversial but widely tolerated practice.

The chickens' head, feet, wingtips and tail, said to hold the "axe" (sh-shai) or magical force, are cut off in an age-old African ritual. Goats, stabbed in the neck during rituals, sell for \$3 a kilo.

Some object to the cult worship, especially sacrifices, but moves to ban such practices have not worked.

Last July, Rio councilman Wilson Leite Passos called for a law prohibiting animal sacrifice. Some 280 cult leaders clad in white lace, turbans and glass-bead and tooth necklaces gathered on the steps of city hall and threatened to cast a spell over each councilman.

The bill was quietly withdrawn.



Didn't I tell you it would be a hit!

Film superstar Sreedevi and Rishi Kapoor shown in action shot of the film 'Chandini'. A romantic story with a soothing effect, devoted love and emotions.

Songs based on folk-lore tunes and silhouettes camera — work a piece of art amid a mad crowd of pop and break — dance movies.

The success of 'Chandini' has once again proved that Hindi movie — goes still have a taste for romance — orientated films that stir waves of nostalgic feelings — a blend of sweet sadness

## Hindi film's '89: a disappointing lot

Finding a good quality movie is like finding a needle in the haystack

By Firoze Rangoonwalla

WHAT does the Hindi cinema have to show for the year that just went by? Quantity-wise there were about 140 films, some of them certified but not yet released, or due for screening at the turn of the year. Some dubbed films may be kept out of the reckoning. Yet, out of the bulk, what are the films that stand out for: remarkable quality or high box-office returns or at least some satisfactory entertainment?

Providing an answer is like searching for the proverbial needle in the haystack. Talking of big-office hits, irrespective of quality, "Ram Lakhan" and "Tridev" floated up from the deep pool of flops, followed by "Chandni" shining with some surprising success in big cities. That makes it a year of two and a half hits, since no other films could net profits comparable to any of these, except "Salaam Bombay" which was a foreign production.

Subhash Ghai's "Ram Lakhan," with Jackie Shroff and Anil Kapoor, Dimple and Madhuri was an old crime drama, brothers on opposite sides of the law, aided by a few unusual twists and catchy songs. Anil's character of a clownish criminal and the bunch of weird villains led by "Sir John" got some popular follow-up. The rich production values and gloss added some visual appeal.

Rajiv Rai's "Tridev" had the same tricks, with two tough (Jackie, Sunny) and one comical (Naseeruddin) guys, plus three sexy heroines and a few bizarre bad men, having their den on an impossible location above a waterfall. The film's fluke card, the "Oye oye" song, became its biggest trump. Whether one considers it an erotic mating call, (the male loud and lusty, the female soft and inviting), or a hearty way of hailing in Punjabi style, or an impulsive mischievous way of shouting or even a sort of chest and throat exercise, "Oye oye" was chanted throughout the length and breadth of the country. So it added tremendously to the

commercial success of a film, that was otherwise badly written. Yash Chopra's "Chandni" had a very poor and unconvincing story as well as script, with absurdly-built situations. But

If content was lacking, the form and style were made modernistic and chic as in "Parinda" and "Chaalbaaz." Directors Vinod Chopra and Pankaj Parashar tried to show off magic

technique without story is like a tempting whore without a heart. The film which created the year's biggest controversy and censor history was "Pati Parmeshwar." A docile faithful wife and a

tho. When released, the men and women both threw it out within two weeks. So much for censor wisdom. Jalal Agha's "Goonj" emerged as tolerable. 1989 saw the shocking specta-

flops. Dharmendra and Jeetendra went on, with only their goodwill to aid them.

**Behind the Screen**

As anticipated, the Mafia has indeed started dominating the industry and also bull-dozing the errant and arrogant stars. Govinda was roughed up and forced to report for the shooting of a film going under a "respectable" title. The puffed up star soon became an obedient boy. So too Aditya. Perhaps to be followed by others like Vinod Khanna. The stars are at last learning that black money is not easy money.

After "Chalbaaz", it will be "Ghar Ki Mahabharat", presenting yet another version of "Sita Aur Gita", this time in the family drama format. Jaya Prada now wants to be one up on Hema Malini and Sri Devi. The docile daughter-in-law will exchange places with the free-living Amazon and Jaya will have a grand, double-rolled, rollicking time.

The producer of "Roti Ki Keczari" had ordered several bags of raw wheat, for a scene in which villain Sadashiv Amrapurkar gets buried under the load. After the scene was shot, he divided the wheat among the unit members and asked them to take it home. The workers were happy. The producer was proud that he was giving the worth of "roti" as per his film's title. He became the provider of the bread. But we hope this payment in kind will not mean an end to the rest of the payment which is due to the unit.

Nana Patekar is going bankers so soon, since his films like "Salaam Bombay" and "Parinda" brought him attention and scribes are featuring him with unusual photos. Nana, also called Anna, has already become a back-seat driver, that is the director behind the director. A step further, he is directing his own film "Frahar", with himself as hero and Dimple as heroine. Has he thought about who will buy the film?



Right: A scene from the movie 'Jaisi Karni Vaise Bharni'



Left: Salman & Bhagyashree in 'Maina Pyar Kiya'

creditably it only banked on romance, music and spectacle, with stars of course, without violence or vulgarity. This was a small mercy in a year when the silver screen and the video screen were splattered with odious of blood, as well as repulsively crude and sadistic fights, tortures, rapes, burnings, killings or destruction. Only in comparison, "Chandni" had some soothing appeal.

As for quality, it was absolutely invisible. There were a couple of art films. Sayeed Mirza's "Salim Langde Pe Mat Ro," not yet released, has the usual trade-marks of N.F.D.C. sponsored films, with low-paid lack-lustre actors, familiar locations, abstract treatment. Nobendu Ghosh's "Trishagni" had a cock and bull story to pre-historic Buddhist era. Its main attractions were a nude shot of young Pallavi Joshi bathing and some passionate kisses, in the midst of sandy boredom. Is it not a shame for N.F.D.C. that the film was sold and released under the title "Hawas Ki Pyas" at theatres notorious for showing soft-porn movies?



Dimple and Suman in 'Pati Parmeshwar'

tricks of camera, lighting, speed and editing, making the viewers go squint-eyed and dazed. But

dominating husband were considered a big danger to Indian women and banned for 18 months.



## South Africa's white youth sings for Mandela

By Brendan Boyle

CAPE TOWN, (Reuters): Eight thousand young white South Africans swayed to the African rhythms of Johnny Clegg's band Savuka and sang their hearts out for Nelson Mandela.

Almost all of the mainly teenage crowd seemed to know the opening line of Clegg's tribute to the jailed African National Congress (ANC) leader — "Asimbonang Umamela" (we have not seen Mandela) — and sang it with enthusiasm.

Later in the show, a dress rehearsal for a world tour starting in West Germany on January 21 and scheduled to end in Moscow, they waved their arms as they sang with him: "One man, one vote... our future guaranteed."

Clegg, 36, believes he is the only musician in South Africa who is making the white youth sing about ideas that would have been unthinkable and probably illegal just months ago.

He hopes that by singing these ideas they will come to accept them and ultimately practise them, too.

"I think there are two South Africas," Clegg told Reuters in an interview after the sell-out show in Cape Town's biggest hall, known as the Good Hope Centre. "One is the old South Africa struggling

to survive and the other is a new South Africa struggling to get born. I love the new one and that is the country. I sing about," he said in between gulps of a cold beer as the sweat of two hours on stage rolled off him.

Clegg made his name playing to black audiences in the red dirt arenas of Soweto, the country's biggest black township near Johannesburg.

Now there are few black faces in the crowd he draws.

"I don't need any racial group's acknowledgement as a racial group. I look at South Africans as just people. But the message I have is superfluous in the townships. The black people believe that stuff anyway," he said.

Clegg also blamed the state-run South African Broadcasting Corporation, which he says has banned his political songs so that most blacks assume he has stopped making a statement.

"Black music has gone dance oriented and I don't make dance music. My music is message and the government radio stations don't want to give me a platform for that."

"For me the hope is the white youth. It is important that they should have their symbol somebody (about whom) they can say 'some of this guy's ideas are cool'. We

white people should be shaping white attitudes, shaping each other for a new South Africa."

Though Clegg says he does not make dance music, he is an expert at "inhlangwini", the dramatic, foot-stomping ritual dance that Zulu warriors have used for centuries to prepare themselves for war.

His music does not suit modern disco dancing trends, but it does get fans dancing wherever he goes and his own dancing with black guitarist Dudu Zulu is a highlight of each concert.

Clegg was born near Manchester in Britain, but grew up in Johannesburg, where his father was a journalist and his mother a cabaret singer.

He learned traditional African guitar rhythms and the basics of traditional Zulu dancing from an illiterate black cleaner who took him to the illegal speak-easy-style Soweto bars known as Shebeens when he was only 14.

That experience laid the basic for the cross-cultural lifestyle that has earned him the title of the "White Zulu" and for his early career as an anthropologist.

Now his mixture of traditional African music with Western rhythms, reggae and jazz has produced a distinctive sound and a worldwide following that has made him probably the best known South African

musician in Europe.

On January 20, Clegg and Savuka — the name means "we have arisen" in Zulu — leave for a 10-month world tour that will take them to Europe, North and South America, Australia, the Far East and finally the Soviet Union.

"South Africa is critical not just for Africa, but for the world. I think it is very important that people outside should know what is happening here," he said.

"I want to bring people in to bear the music and send them out with a message that they can feel good about. I don't want to make people feel angry or guilty... they must feel a part of it, that they can claim it as their own."

Clegg feels a profound anger himself at apartheid and its consequences and that also plays a part in his music.

The title track of his latest album, *Cruel Crazy Beautiful World*, explores the confusion of last year, when he married Jenny, the mother of his two-year-old son, in a traditional Zulu wedding and learned of the murder of his close friend David Webster.

Webster, a university professor and anti-apartheid activist, was gunned down outside his Johannesburg home in an as yet unsolved killing.



## Happy birthday



Heba Safwat turns 6 today, January 18



Sarah Shehabuddin turns 10 today, January 18



Yasmin Asa'd turns 10 today, January 18



Yousef Hussain turned 14 on January 17



Ankur turned 1 on January 16



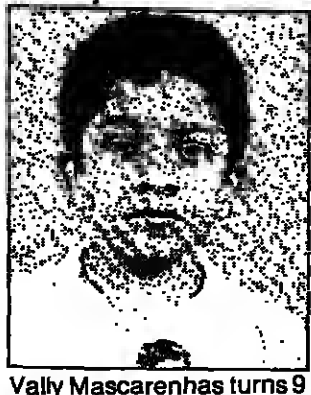
Reem turned 13 on January 15



Kelvin Kanagaraj turns 12 today, January 18



Shannawaz Khan turns 13 today, January 18



Vally Mascarenhas turns 9 today, January 18



Mohammed Rizwan turned 12 on January 17



Allan Fernandes turns 7 on January 19



Fatimah Arshad turns 8 on January 19



Montie Fernandes turns 6 on January 20



Faiyaz Merchant turns 10 today, January 18



Ashley D'Souza turns 8 today, January 18



Neha Mantri turns 10 on January 14



Jowad Kayyani turns 7 today, January 18



Vishali Thirwani turns 1 today, January 18



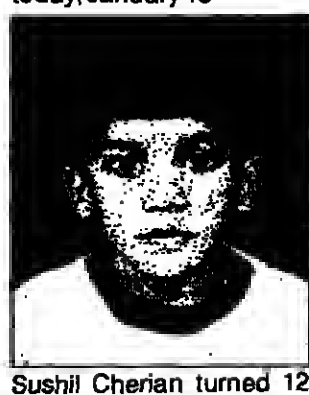
Waseem Islah turns 12 today, January 18



Jeevan Kurian turns 5 on January 22



Nikhil turned 1 on January 4



Sushil Cherian turned 12 on January 17



Chadha Singh turned 5 on January 8



Deeoak Haridas turned 5 on January 15



Ayushman Sen turns 1 today, January 18



Sarika Sharma turns 12 on January 20



Alistair Rebello turned 1 on January 11



Mohammed Naeem turned 11 on January 16



Luke Blaise turns 10 on January 22



Joel Bhasker turned 8 on January 13



Jeffrey Pereira turned 8 on January 5



Milton Lord turns 5 on January 22

## Variety

## O'Toole lays ghosts to rest

Stars as a gentle father in new movie 'Pied Piper'

REFORMED hell-raiser of stage and screen Peter O'Toole has laid a few ghosts of his past to rest by starring as a gentle father in his latest film. And the top actor, who recently won joint custody of his beloved son, Lorcan, after a bitter love-tug battle with his estranged wife Karen, now says that nothing in life is more important to him than children.

O'Toole, aged 57, plays a kindly English gentleman who rescues a band of children during the war in the Granada film *Pied Piper*.

And the gaunt, grey-haired actor, whose limpid blue eyes still have the intensity of the passionate screen hero who stole hearts as Lawrence of Arabia nearly 30 years ago, said: "I took the part so I could act with children. I can think of nothing more worthy in life than children — they give so much."

He added: "Making this film brought back memories of my own childhood in Yorkshire, when I was evacuated to the country to escape the bombing during World War Two. Because all this had such a profound effect on me, I can understand children's anguish."

O'Toole insists that his reputation as a wild-eyed, flamboyant Irish eccentric is all in his drink-soaked past. Today, he is teetotal and claims that after two failed marriages he steers clear of love affairs.

And the most important thing in his life is seven-year-old Lorcan, whose name is Gaelic for Lawrence after O'Toole's most famous role, and his twin grown-up daughters from his first marriage to Sian Phillips, actresses Kate and Pat.

And because O'Toole loves children so much, he agreed to star in a film with seven of them, all aged around Lorcan's age. The results is a moving story of an escape from occupied France during World War Two.

It was filmed during a long summer in which O'Toole was separated from Lorcan.

Stan Margulies, executive producer of *Pied Piper*, told me: "Peter has said many times that one of the reasons he agreed to do the film with the children was because of his own son."

"He felt that the film shows that the innocent are always the first victims of war. And the innocents are always best reflected in children."

He went on: "Peter also talked quite a bit about his experiences during the Blitz. I suppose in a way, the film was a catharsis for him."

Filming of *Pied Piper*, which also stars American actress Mare Winningham, may have reawakened painful memories of the Blitz for O'Toole. But his caring approach with his young co-stars, including Alistair Halsey, Clare Drummond and David Newn-Schmitt, brought the

whole cast closer together.

O'Toole said: "It was exhausting, but fun. Children become totally immersed in their characters. Their sensitivity is very moving. Marlon Brando was right when he said that an actor could learn a lot from watching kids play. Childhood is the most beautiful thing that can exist on this earth."

"Some of my own childhood memories are hurtful. When I was about eight years old, I remember hearing the bombing and seeing barrage balloons during the war."

O'Toole, who has starred in more than 30 popular films and was a blue-eyed blonde screen idol during the Sixties and Seventies, went on: "I haven't kept in touch with the people who looked after me as an evacuee in the Lincolnshire countryside. They seemed to think I was a difficult child — although I didn't think I was."

After his own childhood experiences, O'Toole seems determined to give the children in his life as much love as possible. And that includes his young co-stars.

One of them, little fair-haired Henrietta Baker, who plays Anna, told me: "Peter was lovely. He played cricket with us and was not at all grumpy, like the man he plays, Mr Howard."

O'Toole said: "I've grown attached to every one of this lot. They're all super little profes-

sionals."

O'Toole, who made his stage debut at the age of 17 and has been nominated for several Oscars, is still close to his daughters. He said: "Both my daughters keep an eye on me but they have their own lives to lead. They have a wonderful disrespect and great love that can come only from family."

"And they even used to give me advice about girlfriends. It was this desire for family closeness which made O'Toole desperate to keep his son before the custody case was resolved."

O'Toole and ex-model Karen separated soon after the birth of their son. But O'Toole wanted to keep the son he had craved for so much that he even attempted to snatch Lorcan from his mother in Bermuda. When Karen took legal action to reclaim the boy, an acrimonious love-tug battle began.

Once O'Toole refused to hand Lorcan back to his mother in America, after the actor had won permission to bring the boy to England for a holiday.

But the final result of the custody case was that O'Toole keeps Lorcan for most of the year, while his mother has him for school holidays. And during the summer, O'Toole made up for the loss of Lorcan by being a father-type figure in his small fellow actors, the children in *Pied Piper*.

O'Toole has suffered plenty of



O'Toole cuddles co-stars.

heartache over the years. He was shattered when his wife of 20 years, Sian Phillips, left him, and soon after that his father died.

He was terribly ill in hospital, and gave up drinking for health reasons. But O'Toole still insists that life is better in his fifties than it ever was.

He admitted: "I enjoy growing older. I find that you enjoy life in general more, and appreciate things you might not have done before."

And the actor who has stolen hearts the world over added that he has no regrets. Although he now enjoys a quiet life working, fishing, and being with Lorcan and his daughters, he doesn't regret those wild years.



O'Toole with Heringer in a scene from the movie.

## A touch of humour, but really serious

By Shaun Seekins

LOOK WHO'S TALKING is a surprisingly funny romantic comedy about an aimless woman's search for a father for her newborn son. Crisply paced and extremely perceptive, the film successfully merges the lightness of a classic screwball comedy with a rather delicate subject.

Having been made pregnant by her married and thoroughly vile boyfriend Albert (George Segal), the indecisive Mollie (Kirstie Alley) has resolved to get her life in order. No longer interested in choosing men only for their wealth or their looks, Mollie is determined to find the ideal man who will be the perfect husband and father.

For all her proclamations, however, Mollie remains something of a snob, which means she is ignorant of the fact that Mr Right is under her nose. James (John Travolta) is an immature but immensely likeable taxi-driver who enters Mollie's life during her frantic ride to the hospital to give birth, and he simply refuses to leave. Actor and baby Mollie strike up an immediate friendship (the baby is given a "voice" at the embryonic stage courtesy of a voice over a narrative by Bruce Willis), and the two playfully conspire to get Mollie to fall for the earnest and perpetually happy James.

Mollie is by no means a together, fully-in-control woman of the 1990s. In fact, she seems to be totally overwhelmed by the choices and responsibilities dumped upon today's single girl. The film doesn't try to judge her because she has an affair with a married man, nor does it provide her with any easy answers when she decides to get her life together. She is just a fairly typical single American, unprepared when she has to face the consequences of her affair.

Alley shines in the lead, but the real delight is Travolta, who shows that he is capable of being a terrific light comic. His career has blossomed out late but this should take him back to the heights.

When the whales came is a gentle film with a fashionably ecological moral which at least provides an alternative to the diet of animated fare usually fed to the children. The film's strongest asset is its location, set on Bryher, one of the stunning Scilly Isles, in 1914. Veteran British actor Paul Scofield plays the mysterious Birdman who, as a boy, abandoned his native neighbouring island of Samson.

Above film by courtesy of the Video Club, Salim Tel. 5724572, also by Fintas Tower, Furman and Nani Video Salim.

## Repentant IRA bomber O'Doherty builds a new life after prison

DUBLIN, (Reuters): Shane Paul O'Doherty used to make letter bombs for the IRA. Today he is a student union leader taking an English degree at Duhlin's Trinity College.

He wrote apologies to his maimed and mutilated victims, renounced violence and, after 15 years in jail, came out to start a new life.

O'Doherty, now a frenetically energetic 34-year-old eagerly making up for lost time, joined the Irish Republican Army as an idealistic teenager.

Swept away by a romantic idea of a guerrilla group manning the barricades to protect Northern Ireland's Catholic minority, he was steeped in the bloody history of Irish independence.

The impressionable son of a middle class Catholic schoolteacher in Lon-

donderry, he left a letter for posterity under the floorboards of his room, pledging to be an IRA martyr ready to die for Ireland.

"I look back now with horror. I am now very wary of extreme chauvinism and patriotism."

His disillusionment with that cause is complete. "I am totally opposed to all violence," he said in an interview in Trinity's basement coffee room. "It horrifies me to look back at all those shattered bodies."

After studying English in prison, he was accepted by Trinity, the famous Duhlin University founded in 1951.

"To paramilitaries, I now argue on the productivity level — we can look back on 20 years of violence and see

that it has totally failed. There is also a moral and philosophical argument. I do have basic Christian beliefs. I have been deeply influenced by Quaker doctrines but I do not like labels."

Almost 3,000 people have died in the past 20 years in the IRA campaign to oust the British from Northern Ireland and in sectarian violence between Catholics and Protestants in the province.

Once the articulate O'Doherty turned his back on violence, a string of British politicians and churchmen fought for years to gain an early release for a man given 30 life terms for his crimes.

His letter bomb victims ranged from the late British Home Secretary Reginald Maudling to a brigadier, a judge

and a secretary at the British Embassy in Washington who had her hand blown off.

O'Doherty, a striking figure with his curly red hair and beard, told Reuters:

"I am the only person in the history of the Northern Ireland conflict who ever wanted to apologise to his victims."

What did they think after O'Doherty was released last September and launched with enormous energy into his new university life?

Derek Woodward, a former security officer at the Bank of England who lost an eye and a hand after opening one of the letter bombs, has not worked since being maimed.

"I feel so annoyed that Mr O'Do-

herty comes out, goes to university and carries on a perfectly lovely life...But I have still got to serve my life sentence," was his reaction to the release.

At Trinity, O'Doherty was elected unopposed to the student union as national question officer with responsibility for organising meetings on political issues.

Getting people in the Irish republic to care passionately about "The north is a no-no. People just don't want to know."

O'Doherty, who also works as a freelance journalist and is writing his autobiography, has staged a public debate between himself and Gusti Spence, a Protestant paramilitary leader who served 18 years for killing a

Catholic barman.

He wants to invite Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, to talk at Trinity as well as Gordon Wilson who touched the hearts of millions around the world when he prayed to forgive the IRA bombers who killed his daughter in the 1988 Enniskillen war memorial massacre.

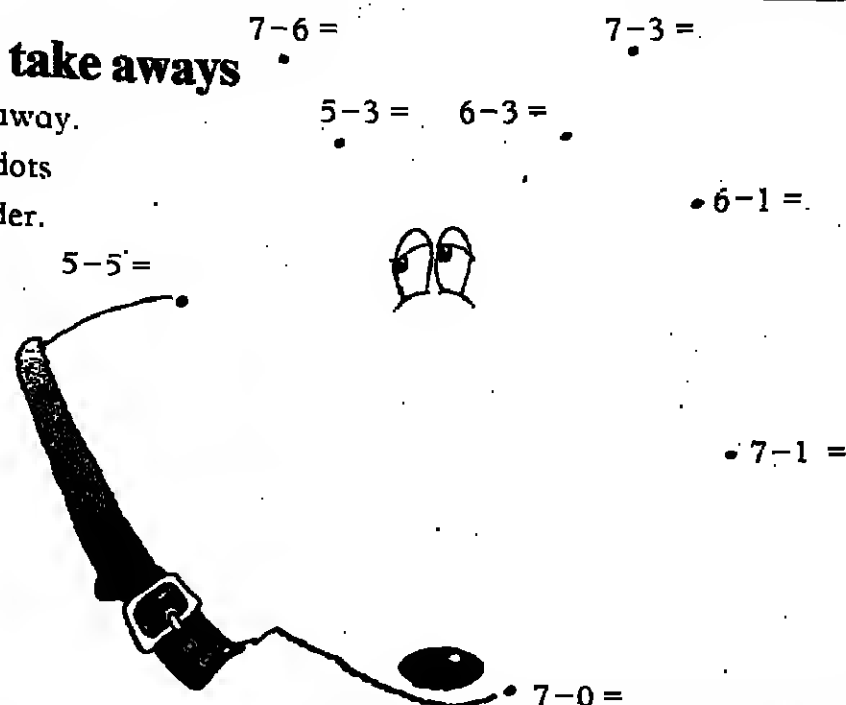
But does O'Doherty ever pause for thought or perhaps suffer a Frisson of fear when opening his own mail nowadays?

"I am aware that anyone in Ireland, north or south, is a potential target for violence. I am going to die anyway. If I am to die violently, at least I will have worked for peace."



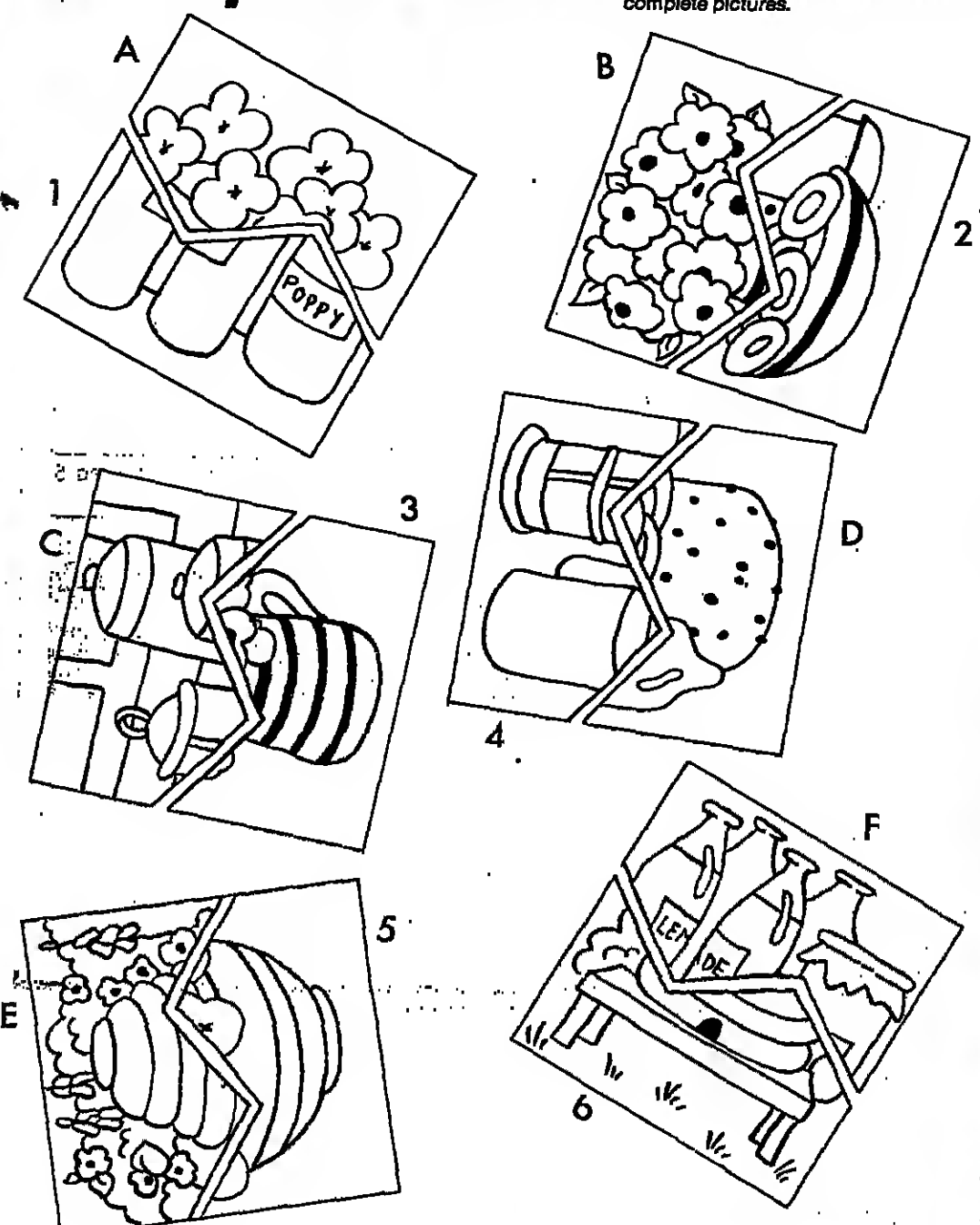
## Dot-to-dot take aways

Do each take-away.  
Then join the dots  
in counting order.



## Picture puzzle

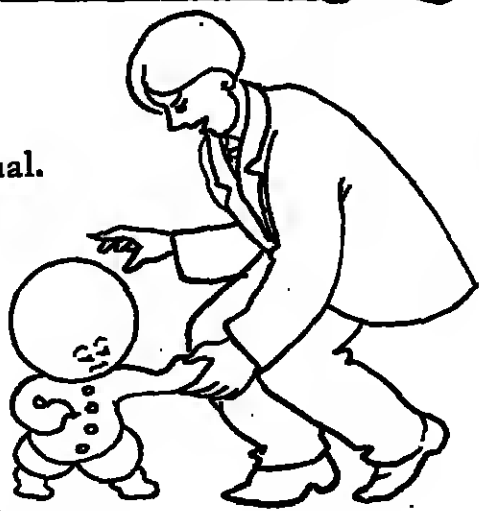
Here has found a colouring book in the woods, but all the pictures have been torn in two. Match the pieces to make six complete pictures.



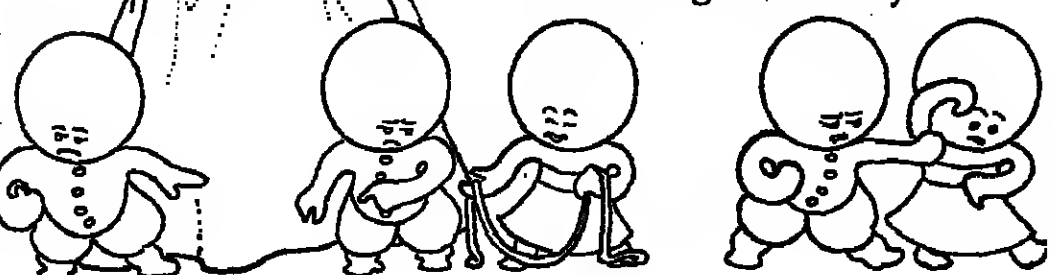
## The Goops again



EVERYBODY liked Ezekiel.  
Why?  
You could scarcely find his equal.  
Why?  
If he made a mistake,  
He said he was wrong;  
If he went on an errand,  
He was n't gone long;  
He never would bully,  
Although he was strong!



Everybody hated Mello.  
Why?  
He was such a surly fellow.  
Why?  
If you asked him for candy,  
He'd hide his away;  
He never would play  
What the rest wished to play;  
He would say *horrid* words  
That he ought n't to say!



## Word search

### PINS 'N NEEDLES

BADGE  
BODKIN  
BROOCH  
CREWEL  
CROCHET  
DARNING  
EMBROIDERY  
FIBULA  
FRATERNITY  
KNITTING  
NEEDLE  
SCHOOL pin  
SEWING machine  
SHOEMAKERS  
SORORITY  
STICK PIN  
STRAW  
STUD  
STYLUS  
TACKING  
TIE PIN  
UPHOLSTERING

H V C S R E K A M E O H S  
M H F R C N I K D O B U O  
Y C B G E D D U T S P Y R  
R N R I N W C S J H T T O  
E S O O H I E C O I S A R  
D T O J C W N L N G C C I  
I I C F I H S R N E H K T  
O C H N S T E I A G O I Y  
R K G V E T P T I D O N S  
B P J R A E Y H B A L G T  
M I R I H D L N B G S R  
E N F T J B A L U B I F A  
G N I T T I N K E S C N W

## Dear Junior readers,

With this extreme freeze-wave in the atmosphere, many are liable to catch a cold. Colds are very uncomfortable and depressing, but if you manage to adapt to them you'll recover quickly with no side effects.

Sniffles never fail to accompany the common cold, so when your nose threatens to begin running, keep a box of tissues at arm's reach. A bad habit, common in many children and some adults, is sniffing when on a runny nose. This is both unhealthy and disgusting. The former is because the germs are forced to stay inside the body instead of being disposed.

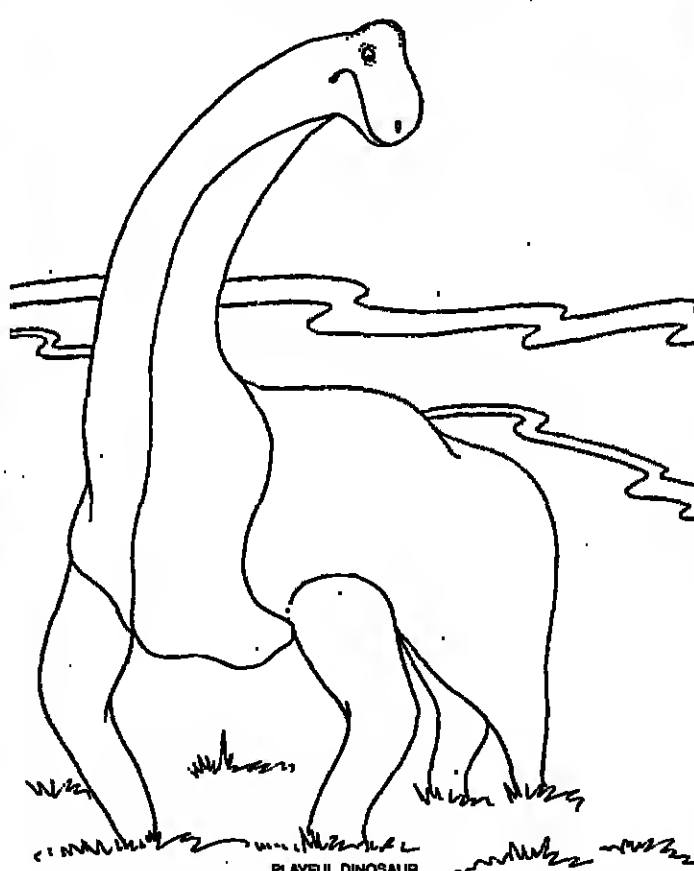
However, blowing the nose frequently causes tender skin around the nostrils. Keep a small tube of cream, preferably baby cream, close by. As soon as soreness begins, gently smooth a bit of the cream around your nostrils.

Try to add more vitamins to your diet, especially vitamin C, found in oranges, grapefruit and other citrus fruits. Vitamins help to fight off colds.

If you have a sore throat, make an attempt to drink as many warm drinks as possible. Add a few drops of fresh lemon juice to each plain glass of water. Use warm water, maybe half from the kettle and the other from the filter tap; be careful it is not too hot!

Basically, try to interpret what your body needs and determine the best cure. Doctor's only cure the germs, you have to suffer with any side effects.  
Mamad

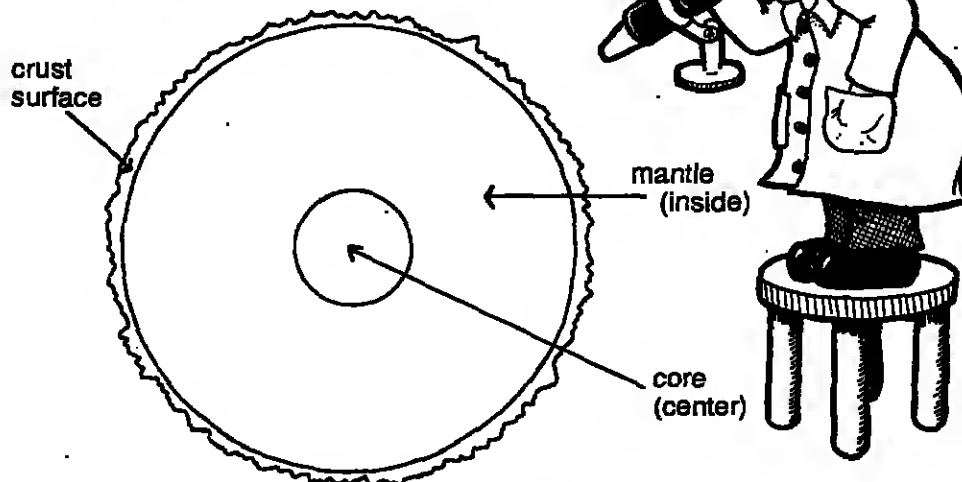
## Colour Timing



## How Do Scientists Know?

Most scientists think the Earth is made of layers — the crust, the mantle, and the core.

Color the Earth parts in this picture.



But we can't see inside the Earth. So, how do scientists know? Scientists base their ideas on information they collect about the Earth.

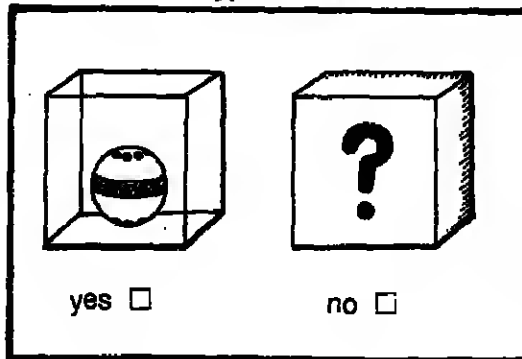
**?** Can you tell what is inside a box without looking inside? Check your answer.  
Materials Needed: box, object

**Procedure**  
1. You will be divided into research teams. Each team prepares a MYSTERY BOX.  
2. Each team collects information about the MYSTERY BOXES.

## Results and Conclusions

1. How many boxes did you guess? \_\_\_\_\_ How many? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Were you right on any boxes? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What did you learn? \_\_\_\_\_

## Hypothesis

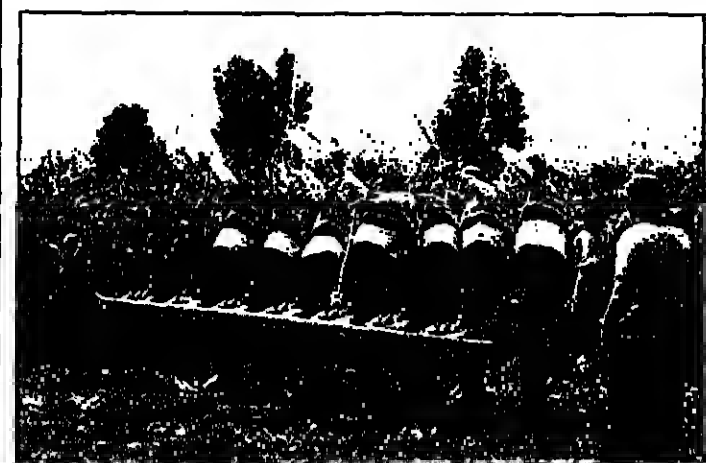


To Julie Hodgson, a friend of ours,  
Together we have spent some happy hours.  
Your birthday is Sunday, we wish you luck,  
We'll see you at seven at the SAS Peacock!

Happy birthday from all Junior Times readers  
and Arab Times staff.

## Amazing facts

# About Sport



Seven men on a single pair of skis — but no snow in sight!

The ball game called 'pelota', popular in parts of Spain, has a long history. It was invented in Italy, and played in France as early as the 13th century. A French king, Louis X, collapsed and died after playing longue-paume, a tennis-like version of pelota, in 1316. The modern game is said to be the world's fastest ball game, the ball reaching speeds as high as 300 km/h (190mph).

During the reign of Edward III of England, the following games were banned, because of their association with gambling: football, stone-throwing, wood-throwing and iron-throwing, cambucan (a kind of golf), quoits, handball, and club-ball.

Lacrosse was first played by the North Americans Indians, who gave the game the name baggataway.

At Isfahan in Iran, there are the remains of an ancient polo ground dating from over 2000 years ago.

Boris Becker, the German who became both the youngest-ever and the first unseeded tennis player to win the Wimbledon men's singles tennis competition in 1985, was several months younger than the junior champion at Wimbledon that year!

William Herbert Grace, doctor and cricketer, made 54,904 runs (including 126 centuries), took 2,876 wickets, and made 877 catches in his career. But perhaps the most remarkable cricketing record is Sri Donald Bradman's average Test-match score of 99.94. Except for an uncharacteristically low score in his final innings, his average would have exceeded 100.

In 1972 in Utah, USA, a man called Allan Abbott managed to reach 222 km/h (139 mph) on a specially-designed pedal cycle. The fastest average speed achieved in orthodox cycling is 49.4 km/h (30mph) over a period of an hour, by the Belgian Eddy Merckx in Mexico City in 1972.

In 1950, just under 200,000 people saw the soccer match played between Brazil and Uruguay at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The biggest sports crowd is probably the ten million or so people who turn out to see various stages of the Tour de France cycle race every summer.

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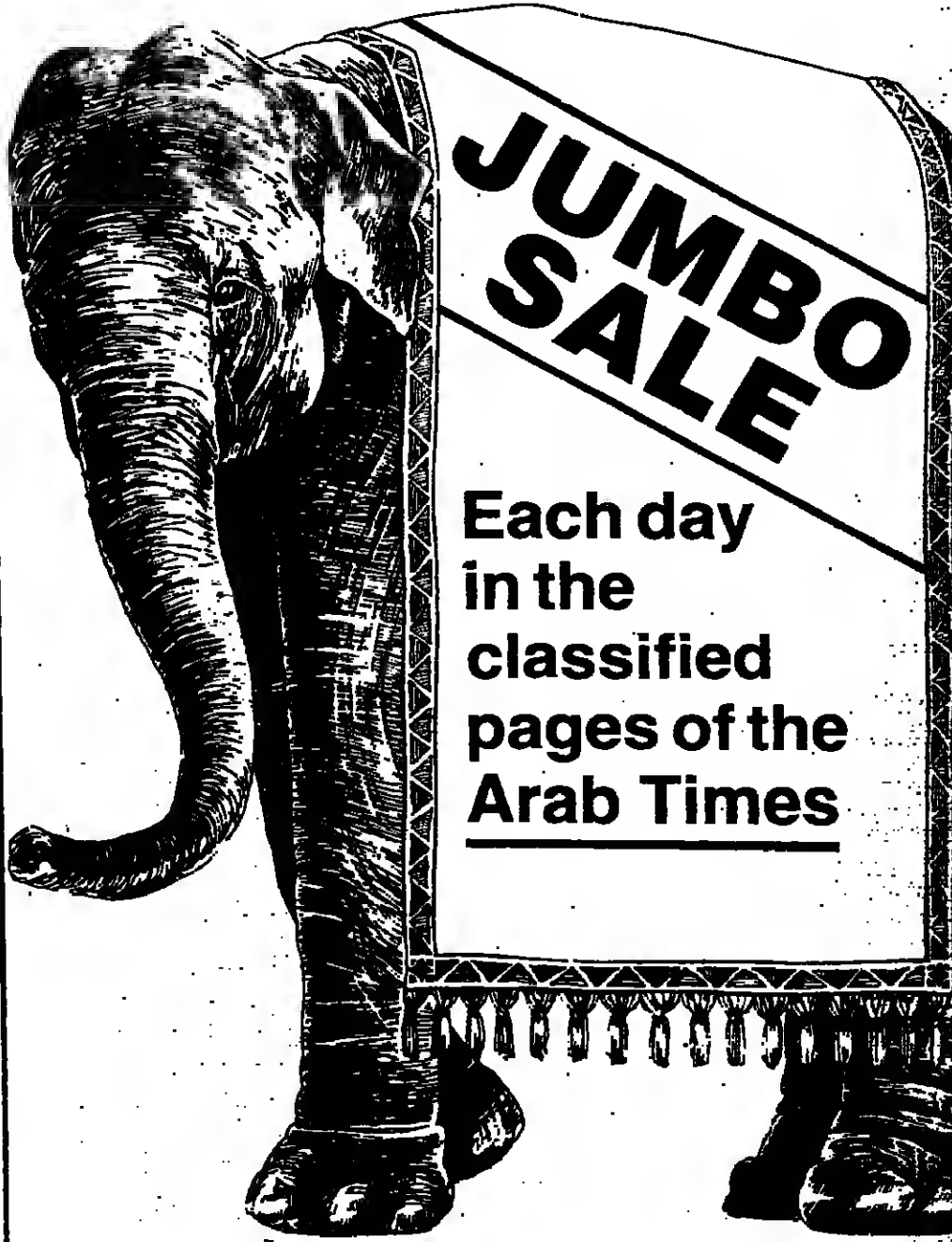
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ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS



# Horse kicks Walker

HAMILTON, New Zealand, Jan 17. (Reuters) Former Olympic 1,500 metres champion John Walker pulled out of a Commonwealth Games warm-up meeting today after being kicked on the ankle by a horse.

With a week to go before the Games open in Auckland, New Zealand's former world mile record holder had been due to race England's Olympic silver medalist Peter Elliott over 1,000 metres at Hamilton's Porritt stadium.

In spite of the lack of competition Elliott set a New Zealand all-comers record and a personal best with his winning time of two minutes 16.30 seconds.

But the eagerly awaited duel with Walker, 38 next week, failed to materialise after the Auckland man injured his left Achilles tendon.

Meeting organiser Brett Addison said Walker, who trains and breeds horses, had been kicked at a horse sale in Hamilton this morning and decided not to race after a tentative attempt at warming up.

"It is quite painful at the moment but it could be just bruising," said Addison, adding that he did not expect Walker's appearance in the 1,000 and 1,500 metres at the Games to be in jeopardy. "He is going to see how it goes."

An injury to the same tendon, after he was kicked at a race in Chesham, England, kept Walker out of the Seoul Olympics 18 months ago.

Walker said he was confident of competing in the Games. "I should be OK," he said, "I tried to warm up but it was too painful and I could not do anything."

Elliott, paced by local main event favourite New Zealand's 1,500 metres champion, will run 1,500 metres — his Games distance — at another meeting in the city on Saturday.

He said he was undaunted by the prospect of racing fellow Englishman Sebastian Coe, the former double Olympic 1,500 metres champion and his big rival for the Commonwealth title.

"The better the competition, the better it will be," he said simply. "It means anything because there are still two weeks until the Games start."

Commonwealth double gold medalist Debbie Flintoff-King, the lone Australian in the low-key meeting, was badly beaten in three races, saying she has still to recover fully from an Achilles tendon injury.

After two false starts in the 100 metres she finished sixth, 0.37 of a second behind winner Helen Pirovano of New Zealand. She was third, more than one second behind key winner Mercy Addy of Ghana, in the 400 metres.

Flintoff-King, Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion and 1986 Commonwealth winner in the same event and the 400 metres, was also well off the pace in a low class 200 metres.

Swaziland will not compete in the Games because of cash problems.

The 31 members of the Games teams were to have left for New Zealand yesterday, but when they gathered at the Royal Palace to meet King Mswati they were told to return home.

A government official said there was no money to finance the trip, although some members of the team said they had their own fares.

Orine samples will be flown business class from Auckland to Sydney for drug testing each morning during the Games amid strict security measures to prevent tampering.

## Lendl cruises past Carbonell

# McEnroe thrashes Austrian

MELBOURNE, Jan 17. (Reuters) John McEnroe, enjoying his best start to a Grand Slam tournament for many years, today gave his second tennis masterclass in two days to reach the third round of the Australian Open.

Repeating his first round performance, the American number four seed conceded just four games against Alex Antonitsch, driving the Austrian to distraction with a display of touch and vision most players on the circuit can only dream of.

"If I keep playing like this I'll be difficult to beat, I just hope it keeps going," said McEnroe after his 6-1 6-2 6-1 victory on centre court. "It's a great start, I haven't started like this in a Grand Slam for a while."

McEnroe's deft display, which reduced the frustrated Antonitsch to serving underarm for one point in the second set, was in sharp contrast to world number one Ivan Lendl's workmanlike demolition of Tomas Carbonell of Spain.

The Czechoslovak defending champion won 6-4 6-2 6-3 and realises he is somewhere off his best form. "I could always hit the ball better but I suppose as long as you're winning it doesn't matter how you hit the ball."

Steffi Graf, bidding for her third successive Open title, was also below her best against American Erika de Lone, a teenager ranked 298 who achieved the rare distinction of breaking the world number one's serve twice in one set.

Graf, who won 6-1 6-2, blamed Boris Becker for her below-par performance following the West German pair's 30-minute practice session last night.

Antonitsch, ranked 98th in the world, was bemused within 13 minutes of the start of his match, finding himself 5-0 down against the expressionless McEnroe.



Lendl (left) reaches for a forehand volley while Graf (center) signs autographs and Becker tries on the smashed glasses of a linesman. (Reuters wirephoto).



Eschewing Lendl's now-familiar legionnaire's hat, McEnroe, sporting a lurid green bandana, even read Antonitsch's underarm serve and won the point to take a 5-2 lead in the second set.

McEnroe's display came as a blessed relief to the sun-blasted spectators on centre court who had earlier sat through nearly four hours of slam-bang tennis between number 15 seed Thomas Muster and Christo van Rensburg of South Africa.

The Austrian, a semifinalist last year, eventually won 1-6 7-5 7-2 6-8 6. "I don't maybe have the talent but I do my best and try to do my job as good as possible," he said.

Subtlety and shade were also in short supply on court two

where 13th seed Sergi Bruguera of Spain was beaten 6-4 6-3 1-6 6-4 by Sweden's Mikael Pernfors.

Both players slugged and grunted their way through a stolid diet of baseline topspin before Pernfors, urged on by a large crowd of his sun-bathing compatriots, emerged from a 38-shot rally at matchpoint to reach the third round.

Pernfors will meet Frenchman Henri Leconte, an artist in the McEnroe mould, whose recovery from six months out with a back injury gathered pace with a 6-2 4-6 6-3 6-4 defeat of Peter Korda of Czechoslovakia.

Results  
Second round results in the Australian Open tennis championships today, the third day of the two-week tournament (prefix number denotes seeding): Mikael Pernfors (Sweden) beat 13-Sergi

Bruguera (Spain) 6-4 6-3 1-6 6-3; Karel Novacek (Czechoslovakia) beat Eric Winogradsky (France) 6-4 6-1 4-6 6-3; Simon Youl (Australia) beat Brad Drewett (Australia) 6-4 7-6 (7-3) 6-0; Michael Stich (West Germany) beat Leonardo Lavalle (Mexico) 6-4 6-2 6-0 (retired); Sarah Loosmore (British) beat Elena Panopoulou (Bulgaria) 6-3 6-3; Nicole Pietrangeli (Netherlands) beat Kumiko Okamoto (Japan) 6-1 6-2; Henri Leconte (France) beat Petr Korda (Czechoslovakia) 6-2 4-6 6-3 6-4; Pete Sampras (US) beat Jordi Arrese (Spain) 6-4 6-2 6-6 1-6 6-3; Andrei Cherkasov (Soviet Union) beat Glenn Layendecker (US) 6-4 5-7 7-5 6-0; Todd Woodbridge (Australia) beat Claudio Pistolesi (Italy) 6-3 6-2 6-2; Rachel McQuillan (Australia) beat Kirsty Sharpe (Australia) 6-3 6-0; 1-Seffi Graf (West Germany) beat Erika de Lone (US) 6-1 6-2; Andre Kuber (West Germany) beat Elise Burgin (US) 6-2 6-0; Liz Strylie (Australia) beat Beate Reinastadler (Austria) 6-2 6-4; Kimiko Date (Japan) beat Brenda Schultz (Netherlands) 7-5 7-6 (8-7) 1-6; Ivan Lendl (Czechoslovakia) beat Thomas Carbonell (Spain) 6-4 6-2 6-3; 15-Thomas

## Stevie sails to victory



Steve Hutchinson

THE Merit New Year Series of windsurfing races on the flying start earlier this week with a strong but northerly wind.

In the three races of the day Steve Hutchinson, sponsored by the Bullen Centre, was way out in front of the rest of the fleet, which included experienced sailors like Abdul Rahman Bahman (Kuwaiti champion), Bruce Keeping (British champion), Mike Quinn and Bob Ward.

For all the three races the course was set triangular with the start and finish on the beach, Leighton. And in all the race Steve Hutchinson was 100 metres ahead after only about 200 metres. He was slightly overpowered with his 6.5m Neil Pryde sail in the first race. Bruce Keeping had a faster top speed than Hutchinson, but beating and being beaten are extremely difficult on a board with no dagger, so Steve went to come second with the second race.

Standings after three races:  
1. Steve Hutchinson 3-1/2 points (Mistral Equipe '89)  
2. Abdul Rahman Bahman, 11 points (Fanatic Cal '90)  
3. Bob Ward, 12 points (Fanatic Cal '89)  
4. Stuart Lange, 13 points (Mistral Competition)  
5. Mike Quinn, 14-3/4 points (Fanatic Cal)  
6. Bruce Keeping, 19 points (Mistral Diamond Head '88)

fast. This time Stevie was followed home by Abdul Rahman and Stuart Lange.

Standings after three races:  
1. Steve Hutchinson 3-1/2 points (Mistral Equipe '89)  
2. Abdul Rahman Bahman, 11 points (Fanatic Cal '90)  
3. Bob Ward, 12 points (Fanatic Cal '89)  
4. Stuart Lange, 13 points (Mistral Competition)  
5. Mike Quinn, 14-3/4 points (Fanatic Cal)  
6. Bruce Keeping, 19 points (Mistral Diamond Head '88)



Hutchinson leading at the mark from Woude de Bie, Bruce Keeping, Bob Green and Owen Walters

## Seniors table tennis gets under way

THE Mitsubishi-IAC table tennis championships for the seniors gets under way tomorrow at the IAC badminton hall, Arun Nair and Mrs Viji Kutty have been selected to play in the women's singles events respectively.

The men's singles events will commence at 9.00 am, followed by the women's singles, men's doubles and mixed doubles at 11.00 am. The finals of all the events will begin at about 3.00 pm including the junior boys doubles between Rahul Kapoor and Zahid Rehman against P. Karthik and Usman Ahmed. Rahul and Zahid will also fight it out for the juniors singles championship award.

All competitors are expected to be present at least 15 minutes before schedule. Because of the interest shown in the games, limited entries will be accepted before the start of the games. The organisers welcome spectators to the finals and the prize giving ceremony by Mitsubishi representatives.

The seedings for the events is as follows:

Men's Singles: 1. Arun Nair, 2. Vipin Verma; Men's doubles: 1. Arun Nair & Kulbir Sethi, 2. Vipin Verma & partner; women's singles: 1. Viji Kutty, 2. Darryl Sathish; Mixed doubles: 1. Arun Nair & Pooja Vodi, 2. Shivi Bhasin & Viji Kutty.



An action shot from the juniors game.

## Bucks take Warriors to task

MILWAUKEE, Jan 17. (AP) Alvin Robertson had a season-high 37 points and a career-high 16 rebounds as the Milwaukee Bucks rallied on 15 straight points in the third period to beat the Golden State Warriors 134-126 last night.

The victory denied Golden State's Don Nelson, who coached for 11 years in Milwaukee, his 600th victory.

Ricky Pierce had 31 points and Jay Humphries 20 for the Bucks. Chris Mullin led the Warriors with a season-high 39 points, 25 in the first half.

The Bucks trailed 87-77 with 5:51 left in the third quarter when they began their run. Pierce had 10 points in the third quarter, Jack Sikma nine and Robertson eight as the Bucks took a 100-93 lead into the final period. Milwaukee shot 70 per cent in the third quarter, making 14 of 20 shots.

Robertson had 19 first-half points for the Bucks before retiring to the bench with three fouls. He also led Milwaukee with eight assists.

Clippers 106, Hornets 98  
Ron Harper scored 33 points

before leaving with a knee injury in the fourth quarter as Los Angeles dropped Charlotte to 0-16 on the road.

Charlotte is the only NBA team without a road victory this season. The Hornets have lost six straight games overall.

Kelly Tripucka scored a season-high 30 points and Dell Curry had 21 for Charlotte, which made only one field goal in the final 3 1/2 minutes.

Results  
Milwaukee 134 Golden State 126  
L.A. Clippers 106 Charlotte 98  
Portland 120 Denver 115  
Sacramento 108 Atlanta 91

## Britain bids for 1993 Cup

LONDON, Jan 17. (Reuters) Britain has applied to the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) to stage the World Cup in Birmingham in 1993.

The British, who finished third in the men's World Cup in Barcelona last September after winning the European Cup in Gateshead, England, are expected to vie with Athens, Singapore and Havana for the competition.

A British Athletics Board spokesman said: "The world of athletics recognised the tremendous job we did with the European Cup at Gateshead last year."

## Foreman's value rises as Tyson foe

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. Jan 17. (Reuters) George Foreman is fast becoming a fighter but his second-round destruction of Gerry Cooney on Monday probably added several million dollars to his value as a possible Tyson opponent.

What is more, the 41-year-old Foreman promises to hand out the same punishment to the 23-year-old world heavyweight champion.

"Tyson," Foreman exclaimed, responding to a question, "I would probably knock him out quicker, because he wouldn't back away like Gerry Cooney."

There appears to be little doubt that Foreman's once impossible dream of getting a chance to win the title a second time had turned into a rich likelihood.

Foreman, who won the title in 1973 from Joe Frazier, said a couple of weeks ago that Tyson's promoter, Don King, had offered him about \$5 million dollars to pass up Cooney and fight Tyson. But Foreman took a chance by fighting boxing's perennial white hope and his performance pushed his value up two digits, promoter Bob Arum said yesterday.

Arum has a vested interest in adding value to Foreman, but in view of a lack of marketable—or

talented—heavyweights today, such a fight is now a reasonable proposition.

Arum said a Foreman-Tyson bout was possible by the end of the year, but first the champion has other commitments.

Tyson will fight James "Buster" Douglas on February 11 in Tokyo, and if he wins he is set to fight number one challenger Evander Holyfield here in June.

Holyfield's manager, Dan Duva, said yesterday that real estate magnate Donald Trump had agreed to pay a record \$12.5 million for the site fee to stage the fight in Atlantic City. The previous record was his \$11 million for the Tyson-Michael Spinks fight in June, 1988.

But despite Foreman's comeback record of 20-0—Cooney being his most notable opponent—he would be a heavy underdog against Tyson.

Cooney, who had not fought since June, 1987, when Michael Spinks pulverised him in five rounds, came out swinging in the first round on Monday, staggering Foreman with a left hook.

"He had me wobbling at one time, but he didn't come in," said Foreman, who is now 65-2 overall.

For some reason, Cooney, 3 years old and 28-3 now, once again became his own worst



Tyson trains for his fight against Douglas. (Reuters wirephoto)

enemy by thinking too much. "I caught him with a shot," Cooney said, "I saw him get hurt and I thought I'd take my time."

Foreman did not give him time. He hit Cooney with all the force of his 253-1/4 pounds, knocking him down early in the second round and then finishing the fight and Cooney's one-fight comeback at 1 minute 57 seconds of round two.

A barrage of punches topped off with a left and then a right sent Cooney sprawling to the canvas where he remained motionless for several moments. "I just got caught with a great, great shot," Cooney said.

It is unlikely Foreman, who says he would like to fight in a month, will take on anyone with much talent soon and risk diminishing his value for a payday against Tyson.

Foreman—who like Cooney received a million dollars—readily admits he is far from a perfect specimen of a fighter.

"Most of the guys said I was old and overweight," Foreman said yesterday. "I got upset with them I realised that they were right."

Tyson arrived in Tokyo yesterday for his 10th title defence. Tyson started training today for the scheduled 12-round bout at the 56,000-seat Tokyo Dome where he made his first overseas title defence with a knockout win over American Tony Tubbs in March 1988.

Tyson, who has won all of his 37 fights, 33 inside the distance, said: "I never predict the outcome of my fights, but I know I will win."

Douglas is scheduled to arrive in Tokyo on January 27.

الإتحاد الكويتي للشطرنج

KUWAIT CHESS FEDERATION

MEMBER OF F.I.D.E

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Kuwait Chess Federation would like to announce the opening of the 3rd National Day Memorial open Chess Championship, which will be held on 25.1.1990.

Registration for male and female competitors will take place at K.C.F. premises in Jabriya, between 6 pm and 9 pm. From 17.1.1990 to 24.1.1990, daily, except Friday. (Each participant should bring one photo)

Winners will be awarded prizes, K.C.F. reserves the right of rejecting any applicant without giving any reasons, even if he is qualified for the championships.

PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME ORGANISING COMMITTEE



## SHOWJUMPING

## Kuwaitis wait for success

DUBAI: Kuwaiti riders were kept waiting for success on the opening day of the Dubai Horse Show yesterday while the UAE enjoyed an immediate hat-trick of victories.

First to strike for the host country was Baket Suhail who won the Eulene Aigner Opening Stakes on Charm.

With eight horses out of 37 starters surviving the first part of the competition, Suhail and Charm produced the only clear round of the jump-off to a time of 47.37 secs at the Duhai Metropolitan Hotel show-ground.

Adel Ahmed was faster on Dubai Equestrian Centre's Oliver, but they had three faults in a time of 46.90 secs. The best time of all came from Yousef Saleh on his own horse Sinbad, who had one fence down for four faults in 37.17 secs.

With Emirates, the international airline of the UAE, among the main sponsors and the official carrier for the show, another home success followed when Annisa Bujaim on Dubai Equestrian Club's Tia Maria produced a clear round in 30.72 secs in the Juniors and Children's Intermediate Open.

Narrowly beaten into second place after another immaculate round in 30.97 secs was Aweena Daswal on Dubai Surprise, while Umm Al Quwain's Eve Fraser on Hakim won clear in 31.51 secs to finish third.

With a massive entry of 88 for the Dubai Television Stakes, in which three seconds were added for each fence down, Joanna Hancock steered Dubai Equestrian Centre's Minnie the Mix to victory in 40.91 seconds.

Second for Kuwait with a time of 41.27 secs on Hot Gossip was Nader Ibrahim, while Ahmad Sharida took third place in 43.12 secs on Lys Du Conte, owned by Sheikh Ahmad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince of Bahrain, and the horse Sharida rode to victory in the Grand Prix in the climax to last year's show.

Among the other challengers from around the Gulf later aiming to make their mark in last night's Khaleej Times Stakes were Saudi Arabia's Prince Mohamed Al Saud, a member of the five-rider Public Security team from Riyadh, and Kuwaiti Army Lieutenant Rakad Al Dhafiri, a three-times winner in Dubai last year.

## Platini &amp; Co. in Kuwait on nine-day tour

## France play Qadsiya today

THE French national soccer team arrived in Kuwait yesterday on a nine-day tour, during which they will play three matches.

France plays the first of its friendlies this evening against Qadsiya Club at the Kazma Club at 4.30 pm. The next game will pit the visitors against Kuwait on Sunday, Jan 21, at 5.30 pm and on Wednesday, Jan 24, they meet East Germany. The last two games will also be held at the Kazma stadium.

French team manager Michel Platini said that the tour would help towards building a team for the 1992 European Championship and the 1994 World Cup. He also thanked Sheikh Faid Al Ahmad, the chairman of the Kuwait Football Association, for arranging this tour.

Platini added that France had chosen Kuwait as a training site due to the excellent facilities provided to them by the KFA. He said the coming match will also give a chance to the French and Kuwait teams to prepare for the coming championships.



Platini (2nd right) with Sheikh Faid Al Ahmad

Kuwait is hosting the Gulf Soccer Championship next month.

A very large press and information delegation, 35 members, has also come along with the team to Kuwait. Platini said this visit was also important for the French media.

The delegation was welcomed at the airport by Sheikh Faid Al Ahmad, the deputy chairman of the KFA.

A surprise member of the French team is striker Jean-

expected to take part in this evening's match. He has had a very successful season so far with Marseille.

Platini, who visited Kuwait a number of times at the invitation of Kuwait, praised the standard of the Kuwaiti team.

Platini was a member of the French team which beat Kuwait 4-1 in the 1982 World Cup in Spain. During his reign as captain, France was rated among the best in the world and also reached the semifinals of the 1986 World Cup in Mexico. They lost their semifinal to West Germany.

France have not been able to qualify for this year's World Cup finals in Italy. They started their Cup qualifiers badly, losing most of their matches. They rallied towards the end, beating Scotland 3-0 but paid the penalty for a draw in one of their earlier matches.

This trip to Kuwait is a happy one for Tahiti-born Pascal Vahirua, who will be making his debut for the French team. He is the first Tahiti born player to play for France.

Pierre Papin. Papin was in hospital and the whole squad was surprised when he arrived at airport to accompany the team to Kuwait.

Papin, who was still on crutches at the Kuwait airport, is not



Some of the French national soccer team members waiting in the arrival lounge of the Kuwait airport. (Photos by Ahmed Barroum)

## Italy extend Cup manager's contract

## Maradona raps reporter

ROME, Jan 17, (Reuters): World Cup hosts Italy have decided to extend national team manager Azeglio Vicini's contract until 1992 in a show of confidence before next June's finals. Italian Soccer Federation officials said today.

They said the contract, which would take Vicini through to the European championships in Sweden, was expected to be signed by early February.

Vicini, who took over from Enzo Bearzot after Italy's poor performance in the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, said he was delighted with the agreement. His current contract is due to expire in August.

"If it goes through to signing, as I hope, I can only be satisfied because it is a signal of confidence and esteem," he said.

Temperamental Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona threatened to make an Italian journalist who criticised him eat his newspaper, during an angry confrontation at a television station.

"You should be ashamed of yourself, if you know what shame means... I'll make you eat this newspaper," Maradona told Naples journalist Giuseppe Pacileo, according to staff at the private television station.

Pacileo, from the Naples Daily Mattino, had given Maradona a measly 3.5 out of ten for his performance in last Sunday's League match against Udinese.

Maradona, who was due to make a broadcast with Pacileo on Monday, first brandished a copy of the Mattino then threw it at him. The journalist left the television station, missing the broadcast.

"Maradona didn't lay hands on me, he just rested two fingers on my chin and I flicked them off," he told the Gazzetta Dello Sport.

In Sunday's match, League leaders Napoli were 2-0 down to their little fancied opposition with just three minutes remaining when Maradona scored from the penalty spot and then set up an equaliser in injury time.

## Southampton beat Swindon

LONDON, Jan 17, (Reuters): Southampton recovered from 2-0 down at halftime to crush Second-Division Swindon 4-2 after extra time and reach the last eight of the English Soccer League Cup tomorrow.

Paul Rideout rescued the First Division high-flyers with an equaliser five minutes from time after Swindon had looked set to become only the second club to win at Southampton this season.

Swindon took command of the fourth-round replay when Alan McLoughlin scored with a splendid solo effort in the 33rd minute and Steve White added a second three minutes later.

Welsh international Barry Horne reduced the deficit two minutes into the second half but Southampton, fourth in the First

Division, had to wait until the 85th for striker Rideout to hit the equaliser from close range.

Matthew Le Tissier curled home a free kick to put the hosts 3-2 ahead in the first minute of additional time before Rodney Wallace completed the victory with his 16th goal of the season as the visitors' hold challenge faded.

## Results

English Football League Cup fourth round replay: Southampton 4 Swindon 2 (After extra time, score after 90 minutes 2-2)

(Southampton play Offsides in quarter-final)

English Division Four

Doncaster 0 Grimsby 0

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## Hadlee to miss first Test

WELLINGTON, Jan 17, (Reuters): Fast bowler Richard Hadlee will not be fit for the first cricket Test against India beginning on February 2, the chairman of selectors for the New Zealand team, Don Neely, said today.

Despite making good progress in the past two weeks from an operation in December on his Achilles tendon, Hadlee needed some first class cricket to reach Test match fitness, Neely said.

"He won't be fit for the first Test, he has to play in some games," Neely said in a telephone interview.

The holder of the record number of Test wickets declined an invitation to play in the New Zealand Cricket Council President's XI four-day match against India beginning on Monday.

"He thought it was just a little bit early for that," Neely said. He was dubious Hadlee would even be fit for the second Test starting on February 9.

"You would be asking him to come from being a walking stick-type person two weeks ago to playing a leading role in a Test match — he has to have some games under his belt first."

Hadlee, 38, broke down just before New Zealand's short tour to Australia in November during which he had hoped to pick up the four wickets he needed to be the first man to get 400.

He also broke down during both the last home Test series against Pakistan and England.

The selectors named a youthful President's XI side to meet India in the first match in New Plymouth. Nine of the 12 players named yesterday are under 25 and 20-year-old left-arm spinner Mark Richardson will make his first-class debut.

Among the young talent with immediate Test prospects are Trevor Franklin, Ken Rutherford and pace bowlers Jonathan Millmow and Shane Thomson.

India arrive on Friday.

The team is: Trevor Franklin, Kyle Wealleans, Ken Rutherford, Mark Douglas, Gavin Larsen, Shane Thomson, Adam Parore, Grant Bradburn, Martin Snedden (captain), Mark Richardson, Jonathan Millmow. The 12th man will be Paul Unwin.

## Sri Lankans out for 234

BENDIGO, Australia, Jan 17, (Reuters): The touring Sri Lankan cricketers failed to build on a promising start and were dismissed for 234 by an Australian Country XI on the first day of their three-day match today.

At the Close, the Australian country side, who lost to the Sri Lankans by 14 runs in 1988, were 15 without loss in reply.

The touring side began well with openers Dhammika Ranatunga and Athula Samarasekera putting on 80 in even time before they were out for 32 and 51 respectively for the addition of just eight runs.

The Australians gradually took command in the second session, claiming three wickets for 92 runs including the prize scalp of skipper Arjuna Ranatunga for 38.

Paceman Eugene Nixon from the Australian Capital Territory was the pick of the bowlers, taking four for 62.

## Italian soccer

ROME, Jan 17, (Reuters): Results of Italian First Division soccer matches today.

Bologna	0	Udinese	0
Cremone	2	Lazio	1
Florentina	2	Juventus	1
Lecco	0	Internazionale	0
AC Milan	3	Atalanta	1
Napoli	0	Cesena	0
Roma	0	Genoa	0
Sampdoria	2	Ascoli	0
Verona	1	Bari	1

## Bridge games

RESULTS of the Menzies Ladies Bridge Club games played on Monday:

1. Jamila Akel & Margaret Maynard
2. Nahil Akel & Lollo Muthwaite
3. Rabab Aboushi & Sheila Dagher

Results of the Regency Ladies Bridge Club games held yesterday:

1. Jamila Akel & Rabab Aboushi
2. Nahil Akel & Lollo Muthwaite
3. Suhadad Oskay & Neda Khalaf



A demonstrator holds up a banner slamming the rebels (Reuters wirephoto).

## S. African activists vow to halt rebel cricket tour

CAPE TOWN, Jan 17, (Reuters): Anti-apartheid leaders vowed at a meeting of over 2,000 people in central Cape Town yesterday to halt a rebel England cricket tour of South Africa.

"If we fail to stop this tour we will have failed our people," said Trevor Lekota, a United Democratic Front (UDF) spokesman recently released from the Robben Island political Prison off Cape Town.

Dozens of police armed with pistols and shotguns watched as busloads of mostly black protesters arrived at Cape Town's city hall for the launch of a national campaign to halt the tour.

The campaign is being co-ordinated by the anti-government National Sports Congress.

A police truck with a water cannon drew up as people left the hall after the three-hour meeting, but the device was not used.

Municipal security officers tried to keep about half the crowd outside the hall, saying it was already full, but the people burst in through double wooden doors.

Outlawed flags of the African National Congress (ANC) and South African communist party were hung from balconies and a banner referring to English tour captain Mike Gatting said: "Gatting — battling for blood money."

Gatting, yesterday won leave to appeal against a court order that threatens to disrupt the controversial tour.

Gatting and fellow tour member John Emburey won high court approval to challenge a magistrate's order that they must give evidence at the trial of eight anti-apartheid campaigners later this month.

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